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THE NEW MUTANTS
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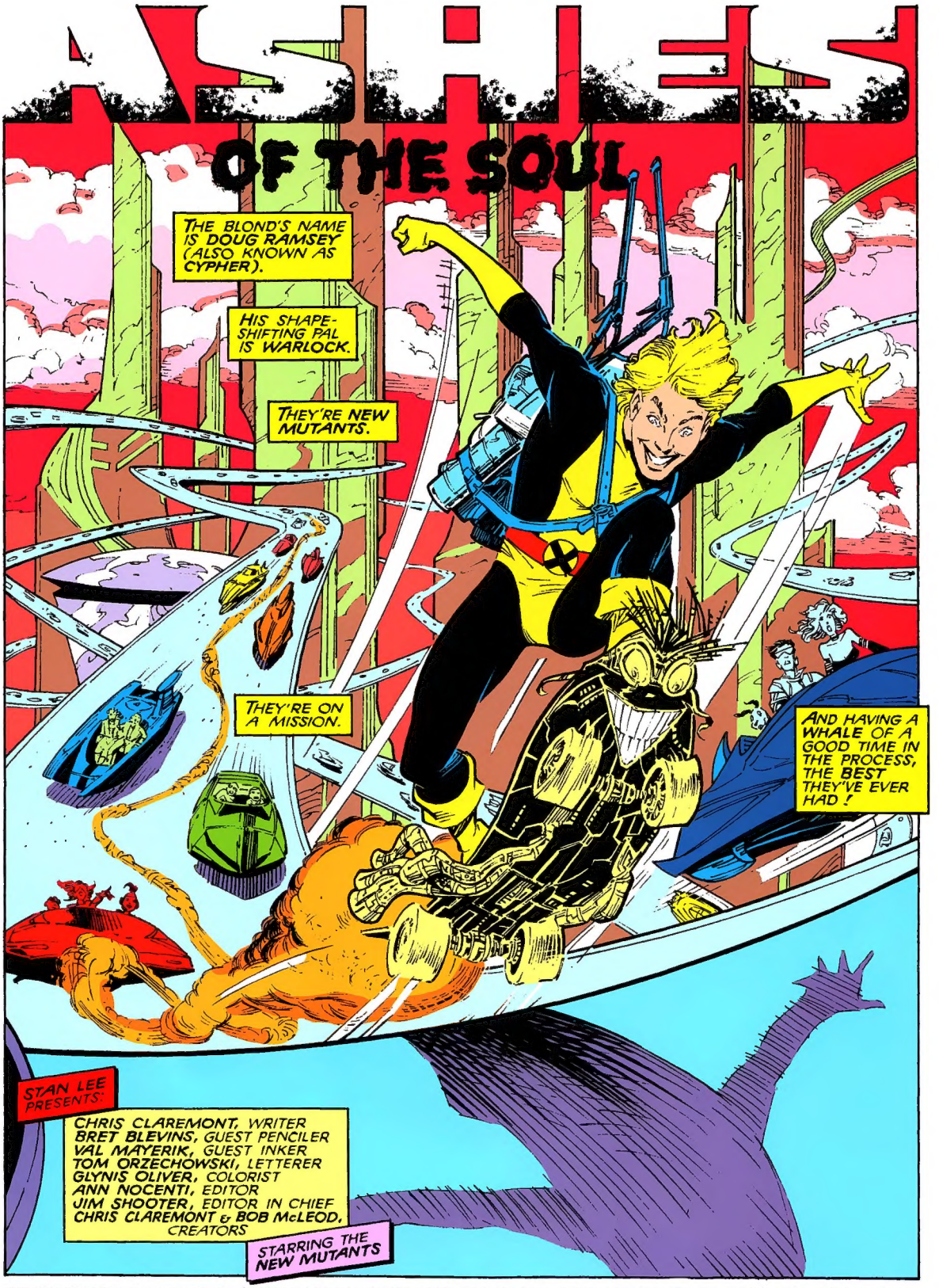
49
MAR
TRAPPED IN THE FUTURE!
WHICH FRIEND BETRAYED THEM?!


TALES
OF THE SOUL
THE BLOND'S NAME IS DOUG RAMSEY (ALSO KNOWN AS CYPHER).
HIS SHAPE-SHIFTING PAL IS WARLOCK.
THEY'RE NEW MUTANTS.
THEY'RE ON A MISSION.
AND HAVING A WHALE OF A GOOD TIME IN THE PROCESS, THE BEST THEY'VE EVER HAD!
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
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BRET BLEVINS, GUEST PENCILER
VAL MAYERIK, GUEST INKER
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, LETTERER
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STARRING THE NEW MUTANTS

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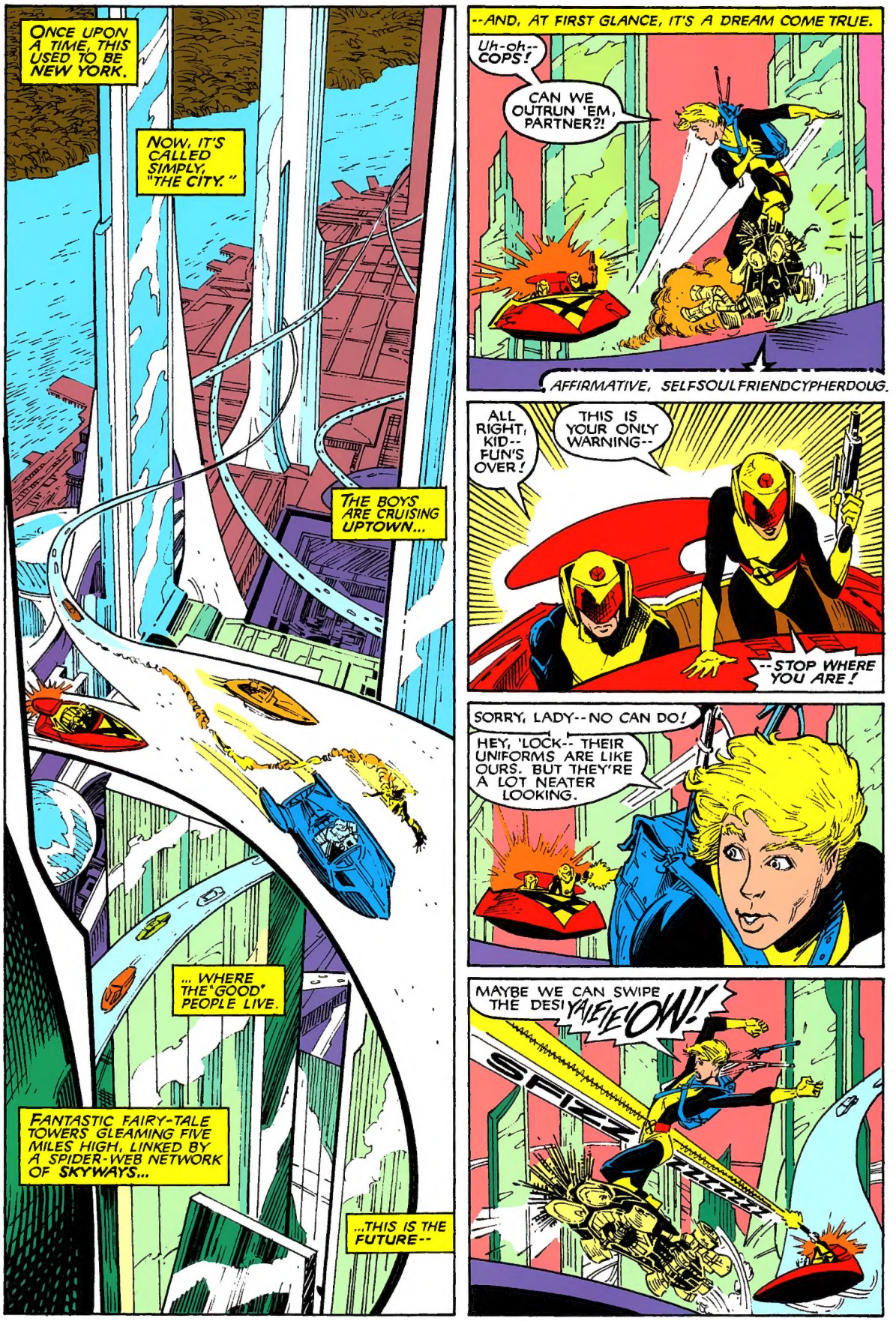
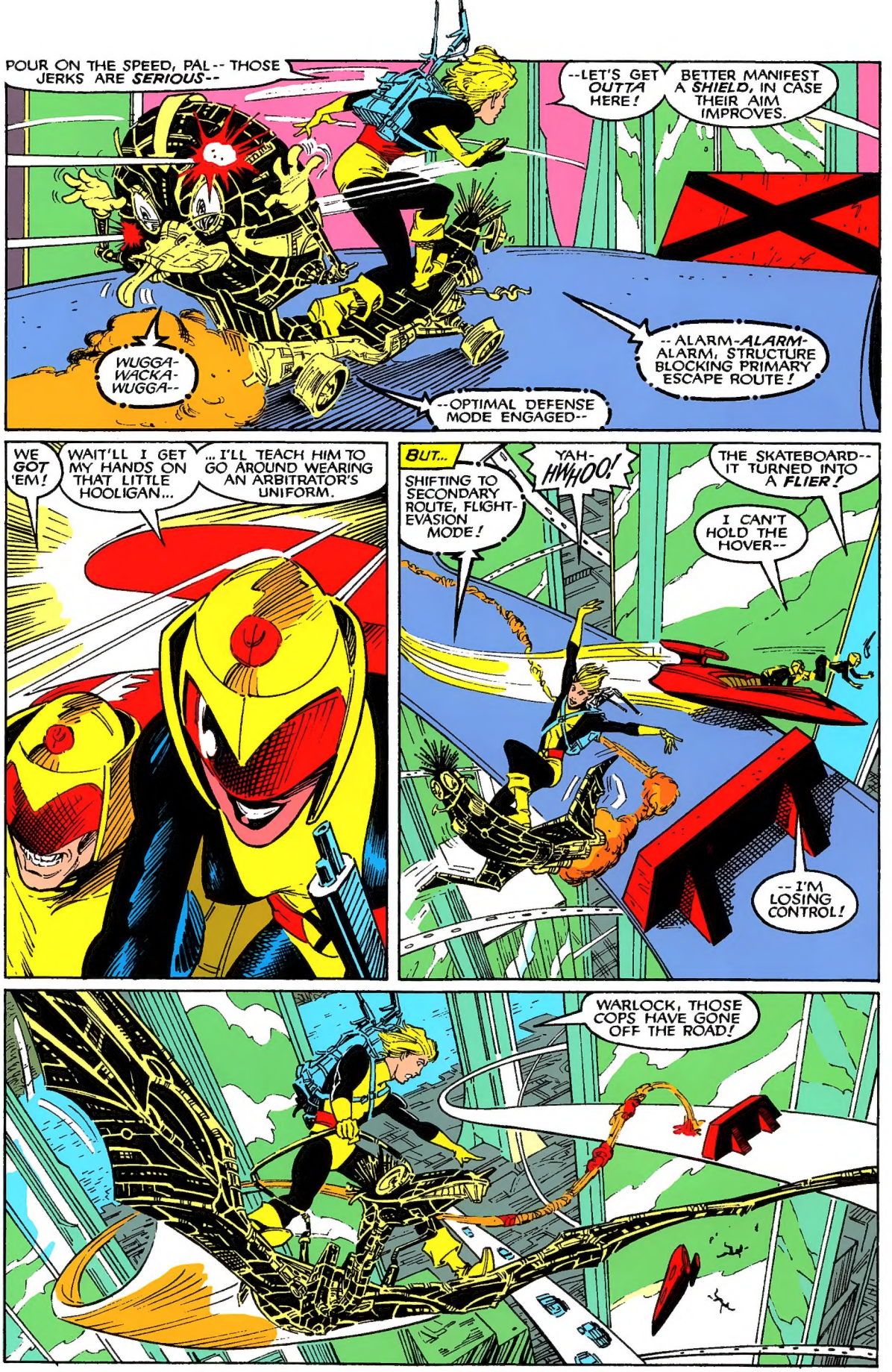
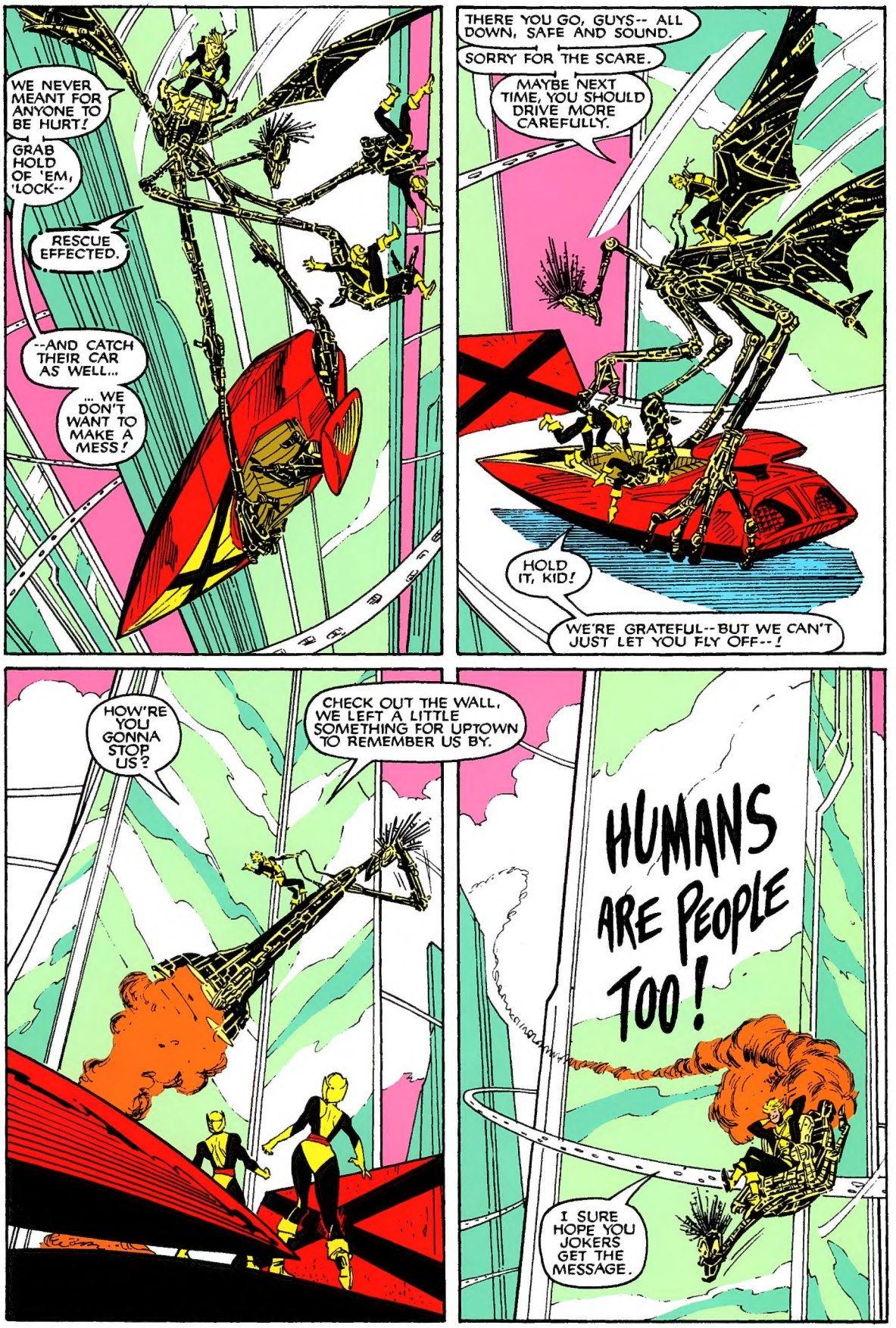
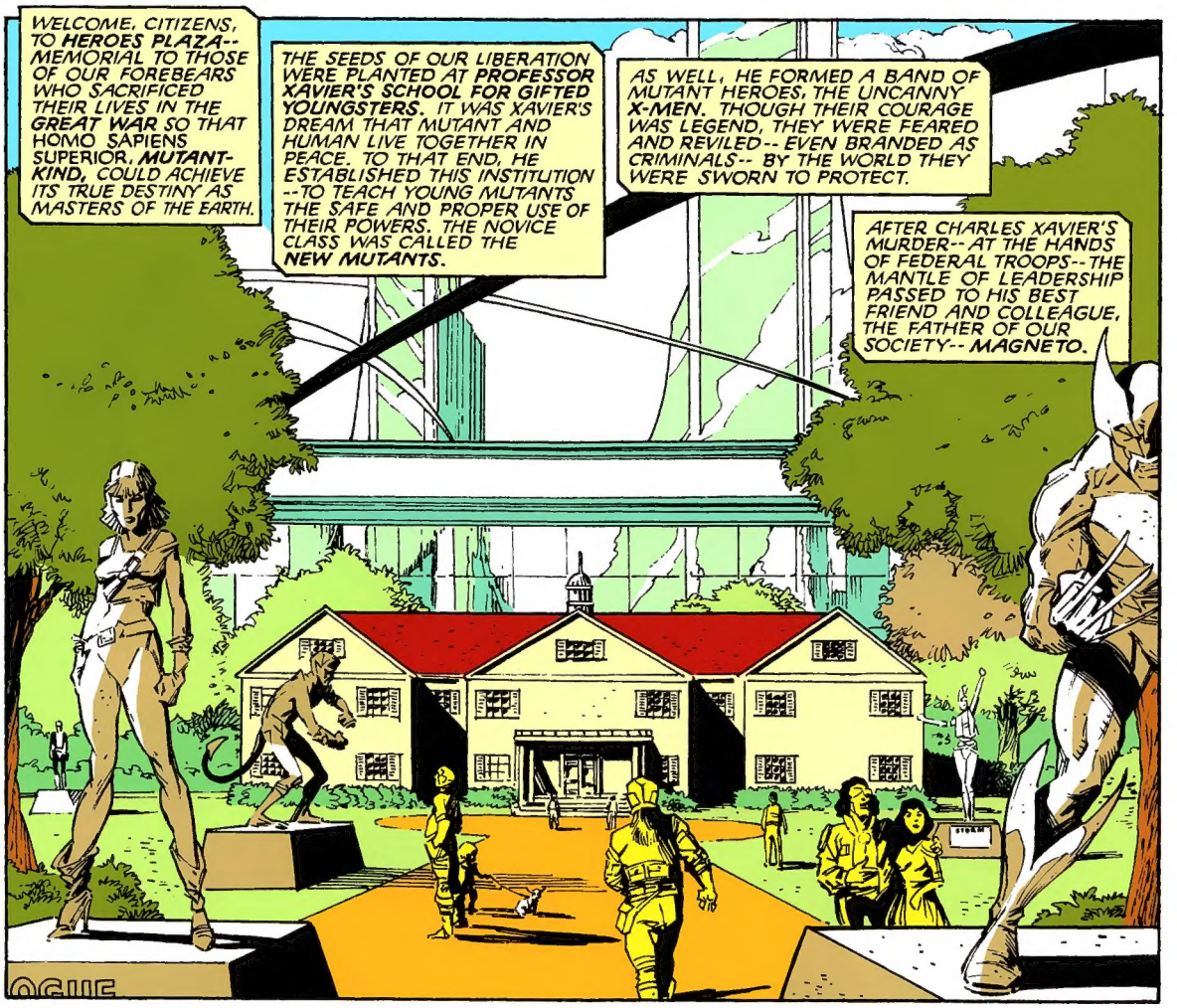
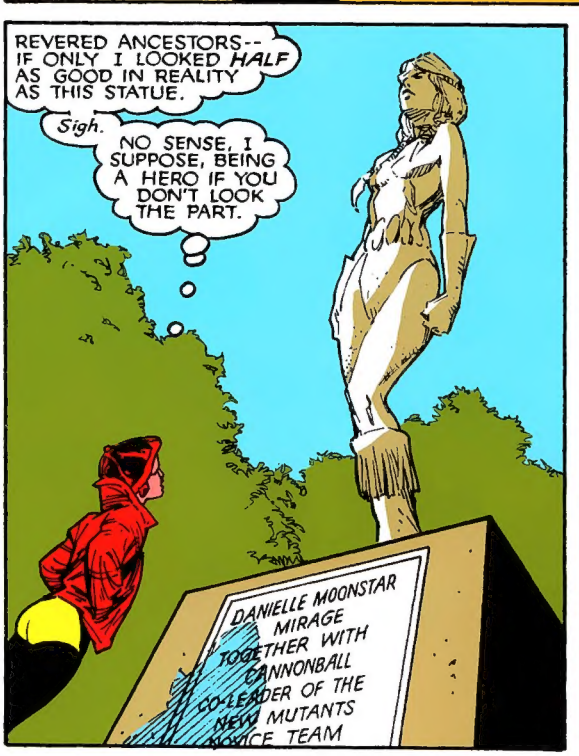

ONCE UPON A TIME, THIS USED TO BE NEW YORK.
NOW, IT'S CALLED SIMPLY, "THE CITY."
THE BOYS ARE CRUISING UPTOWN...
... WHERE THE "GOOD" PEOPLE LIVE.
FANTASTIC FAIRY-TALE TOWERS GLEAMING FIVE MILES HIGH, LINKED BY A SPIDER-WEB NETWORK OF SKYWAYS...
...THIS IS THE FUTURE--
--AND, AT FIRST GLANCE, IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE.
Uh-oh-- COPS!
CAN WE OUTRUN 'EM, PARTNER?!
AFFIRMATIVE, SELFSOULFRIENDCYPHERDOUG.
ALL RIGHT, KID-- FUN'S OVER!
THIS IS YOUR ONLY WARNING--
--STOP WHERE YOU ARE!
SORRY, LADY--NO CAN DO!
HEY, 'LOCK-- THEIR UNIFORMS ARE LIKE OURS. BUT THEY'RE A LOT NEATER LOOKING.
MAYBE WE CAN SWIPE THE DESI
YAIEE
OW!
SFIKZ
ZHHH

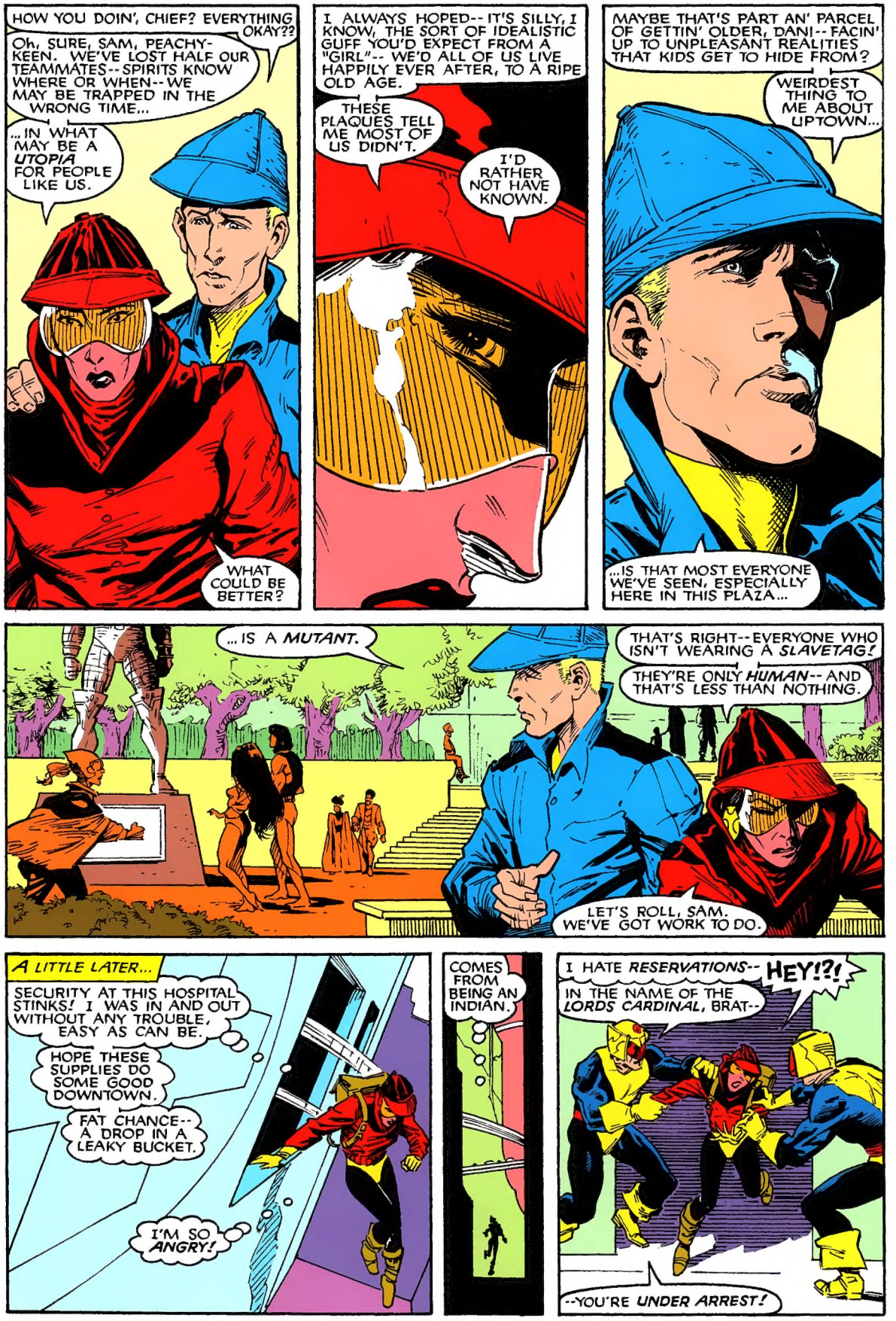

POUR ON THE SPEED, PAL-- THOSE JERKS ARE SERIOUS--
--LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
BETTER MANIFEST A SHIELD, IN CASE THEIR AIM IMPROVES.
WUGGA-WACKA-WUGGA--
--ALARM-ALARM-ALARM, STRUCTURE BLOCKING PRIMARY ESCAPE ROUTE!
--OPTIMAL DEFENSE MODE ENGAGED--
WE GOT 'EM!
WAIT'LL I GET MY HANDS ON THAT LITTLE HOOLIGAN...
... I'LL TEACH HIM TO GO AROUND WEARING AN ARBITRATOR'S UNIFORM.
BUT...
SHIFTING TO SECONDARY ROUTE, FLIGHT-EVASION MODE!
YAH-HWHOO!
THE SKATEBOARD-- IT TURNED INTO A FLIER!
I CAN'T HOLD THE HOVER--
--I'M LOSING CONTROL!
WARLOCK, THOSE COPS HAVE GONE OFF THE ROAD!

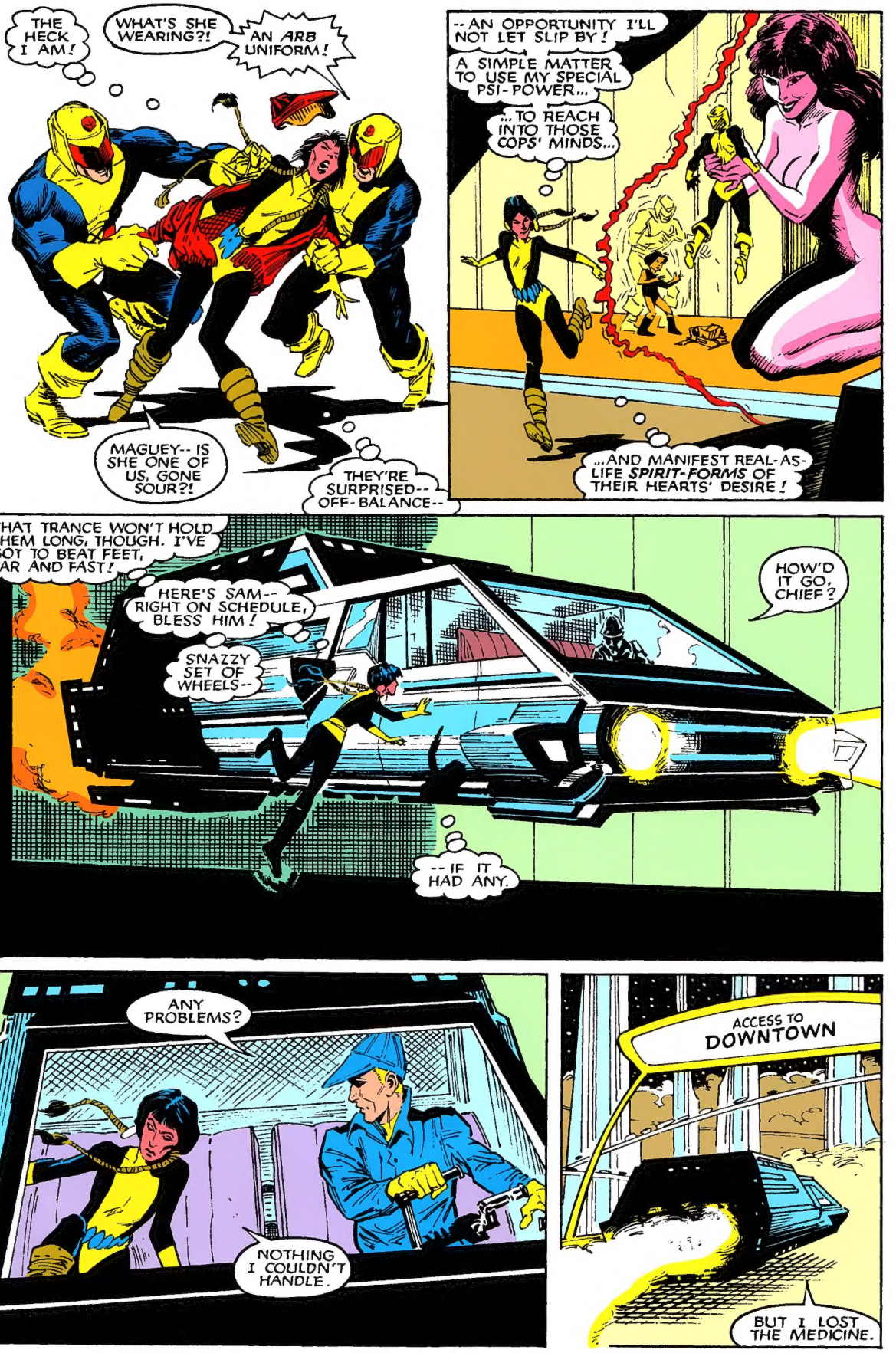

WE NEVER MEANT FOR ANYONE TO BE HURT!
GRAB HOLD OF 'EM, 'LOCK--
RESCUE EFFECTED.
--AND CATCH THEIR CAR AS WELL...
... WE DON'T WANT TO MAKE A MESS!
THERE YOU GO, GUYS-- ALL DOWN, SAFE AND SOUND.
SORRY FOR THE SCARE.
MAYBE NEXT TIME, YOU SHOULD DRIVE MORE CAREFULLY.
HOLD IT, KID!
WE'RE GRATEFUL--BUT WE CAN'T JUST LET YOU FLY OFF--!
HOW'RE YOU GONNA STOP US?
CHECK OUT THE WALL. WE LEFT A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR UPTOWN TO REMEMBER US BY.
HUMANS ARE PEOPLE TOO!
I SURE HOPE YOU JOKERS GET THE MESSAGE.

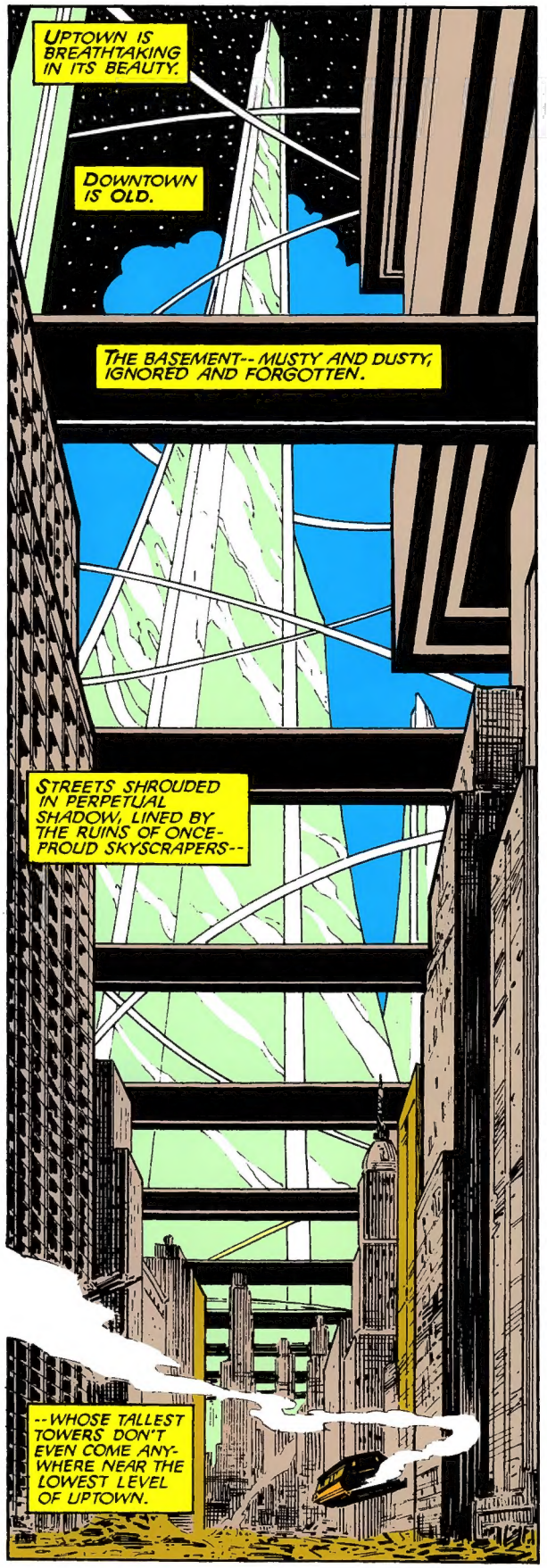

WELCOME, CITIZENS, TO **HEROES PLAZA**-- MEMORIAL TO THOSE OF OUR FOREBEARS WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN THE **GREAT WAR** SO THAT HOMO SAPIENS SUPERIOR, **MUTANT-KIND,** COULD ACHIEVE ITS TRUE DESTINY AS MASTERS OF THE EARTH.
THE SEEDS OF OUR LIBERATION WERE PLANTED AT **PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.** IT WAS XAVIER'S DREAM THAT MUTANT AND HUMAN LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE. TO THAT END, HE ESTABLISHED THIS INSTITUTION --TO TEACH YOUNG MUTANTS THE SAFE AND PROPER USE OF THEIR POWERS. THE NOVICE CLASS WAS CALLED THE **NEW MUTANTS.**
AS WELL, HE FORMED A BAND OF MUTANT HEROES, THE UNCANNY **X-MEN.** THOUGH THEIR COURAGE WAS LEGEND, THEY WERE FEARED AND REVILED-- EVEN BRANDED AS CRIMINALS-- BY THE WORLD THEY WERE SWORN TO PROTECT.
AFTER CHARLES XAVIER'S MURDER-- AT THE HANDS OF FEDERAL TROOPS-- THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP PASSED TO HIS BEST FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, THE FATHER OF OUR SOCIETY-- **MAGNETO.**

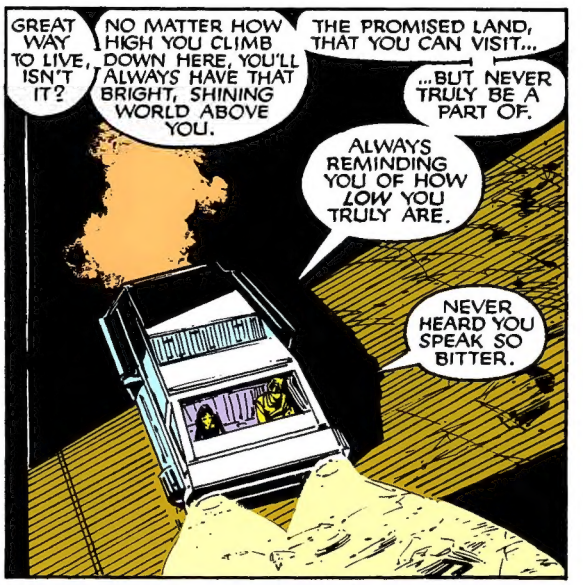

REVERED ANCESTORS-- IF ONLY I LOOKED *HALF* AS GOOD IN REALITY AS THIS STATUE.
Sigh.
NO SENSE, I SUPPOSE, BEING A HERO IF YOU DON'T LOOK THE PART.
DANIELLE MOONSTAR MIRAGE TOGETHER WITH CANNONBALL CO-LEADER OF THE NEW MUTANTS NOVICE TEAM

WEIRD-- LOOKING UP AT A GIANT-SIZED VERSION OF YOURSELF, READING ABOUT HOW AND WHEN AND WHERE YOU *DIED.*
WEIRDER STILL-- KNOWING THAT IT CAN'T POSSIBLY HAPPEN UNLESS *ILLYANA* SHOWS UP TO TELEPORT THE FOUR OF US HOME TO OUR PROPER TIME.
IF THAT HAPPENS, SHOULD I LET HISTORY TAKE ITS COURSE, OR TRY TO CHANGE THINGS?
AND IF I *DO* CHANGE WHAT WILL BE...
...WHO'S TO SAY I WON'T BE MAKING THE FUTURE-- THIS PRESENT-- *WORSE?*


HOW YOU DOIN', CHIEF? EVERYTHING OKAY??
Oh, SURE, SAM, PEACHY-KEEN. WE'VE LOST HALF OUR TEAMMATES--SPIRITS KNOW WHERE OR WHEN--WE MAY BE TRAPPED IN THE WRONG TIME...
...IN WHAT MAY BE A *UTOPIA* FOR PEOPLE LIKE US.
WHAT COULD BE BETTER?
I ALWAYS HOPED--IT'S SILLY, I KNOW, THE SORT OF IDEALISTIC GUFF YOU'D EXPECT FROM A "GIRL"--WE'D ALL OF US LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER, TO A RIPE OLD AGE.
THESE PLAQUES TELL ME MOST OF US DIDN'T.
I'D RATHER NOT HAVE KNOWN.
MAYBE THAT'S PART AN' PARCEL OF GETTIN' OLDER, DANI--FACIN' UP TO UNPLEASANT REALITIES THAT KIDS GET TO HIDE FROM?
WEIRDEST THING TO ME ABOUT UPTOWN...
...IS THAT MOST EVERYONE WE'VE SEEN, ESPECIALLY HERE IN THIS PLAZA...
...IS A *MUTANT*.
THAT'S RIGHT--EVERYONE WHO ISN'T WEARING A *SLAVETAG!*
THEY'RE ONLY *HUMAN*--AND THAT'S LESS THAN NOTHING.
LET'S ROLL, SAM. WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
A LITTLE LATER...
SECURITY AT THIS HOSPITAL STINKS! I WAS IN AND OUT WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE, EASY AS CAN BE.
HOPE THESE SUPPLIES DO SOME GOOD DOWNTOWN.
FAT CHANCE--A DROP IN A LEAKY BUCKET.
I'M SO *ANGRY!*
COMES FROM BEING AN INDIAN.
I HATE *RESERVATIONS*--
HEY!?!
IN THE NAME OF THE *LORDS CARDINAL*, BRAT--
--YOU'RE *UNDER ARREST!*


THE HECK I AM!
WHAT'S SHE WEARING?!
AN ARB UNIFORM!
MAGUEY-- IS SHE ONE OF US, GONE SOUR?!
THEY'RE SURPRISED-- OFF-BALANCE--
--AN OPPORTUNITY I'LL NOT LET SLIP BY!
A SIMPLE MATTER TO USE MY SPECIAL PSI-POWER...
...TO REACH INTO THOSE COPS' MINDS...
...AND MANIFEST REAL-AS-LIFE SPIRIT-FORMS OF THEIR HEARTS' DESIRE!
THAT TRANCE WON'T HOLD THEM LONG, THOUGH. I'VE GOT TO BEAT FEET, FAR AND FAST!
HERE'S SAM-- RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, BLESS HIM!
SNAZZY SET OF WHEELS--
HOW'D IT GO, CHIEF?
--IF IT HAD ANY.
ANY PROBLEMS?
NOTHING I COULDN'T HANDLE.
ACCESS TO DOWNTOWN
BUT I LOST THE MEDICINE.


UPTOWN IS BREATHTAKING IN ITS BEAUTY.
DOWNTOWN IS OLD.
THE BASEMENT--MUSTY AND DUSTY, IGNORED AND FORGOTTEN.
STREETS SHROUDED IN PERPETUAL SHADOW, LINED BY THE RUINS OF ONCE-PROUD SKYSCRAPERS--
--WHOSE TALLEST TOWERS DON'T EVEN COME ANY-WHERE NEAR THE LOWEST LEVEL OF UPTOWN.


GREAT WAY TO LIVE, ISN'T IT?
NO MATTER HOW HIGH YOU CLIMB DOWN HERE, YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE THAT BRIGHT, SHINING WORLD ABOVE YOU.
THE PROMISED LAND, THAT YOU CAN VISIT...
...BUT NEVER TRULY BE A PART OF.
ALWAYS REMINDING YOU OF HOW LOW YOU TRULY ARE.
NEVER HEARD YOU SPEAK SO BITTER.

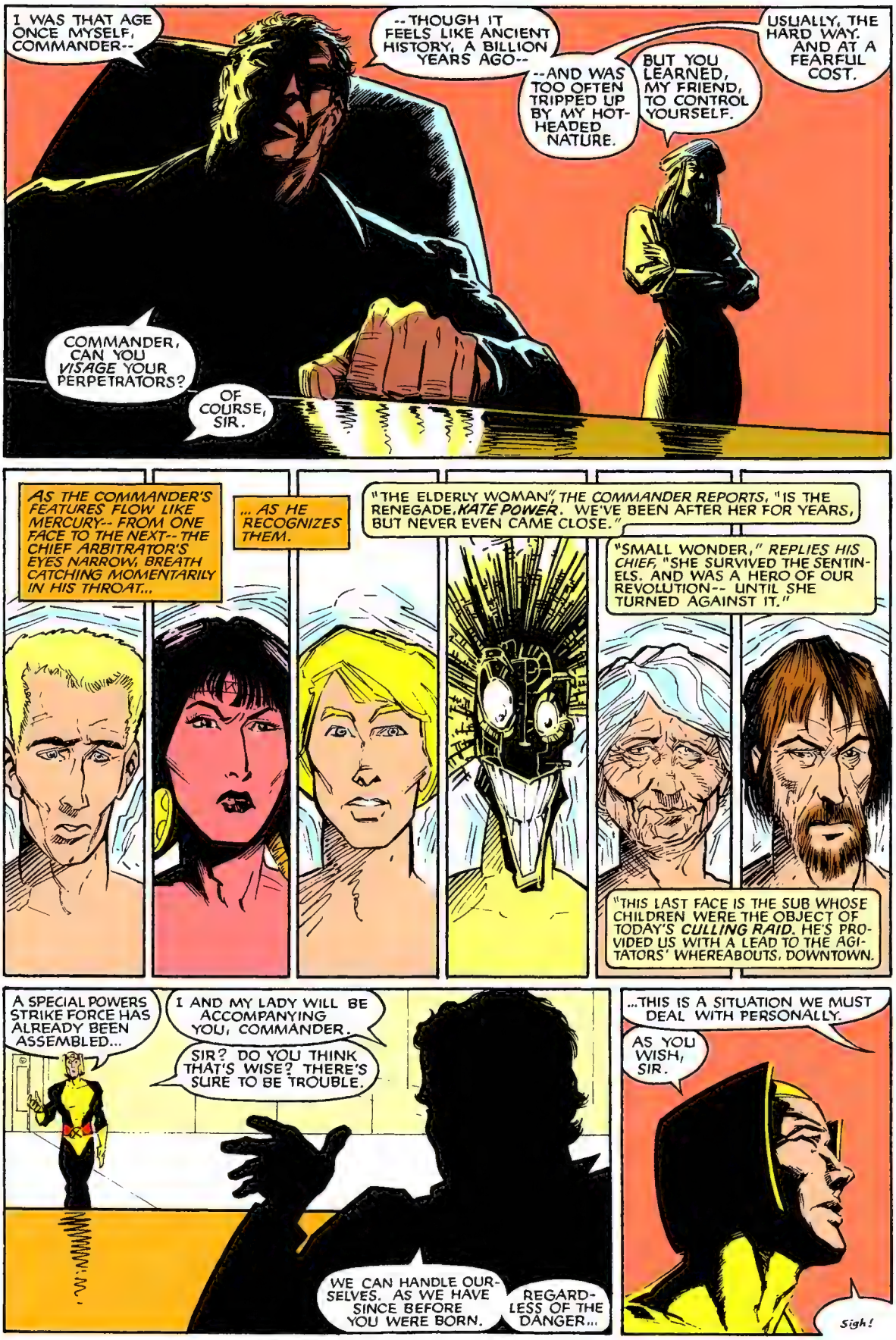
YOU'VE NEVER--
WHAT'S THAT-- SIRENS-- COPS!?!
WEO WEO WEO WEO

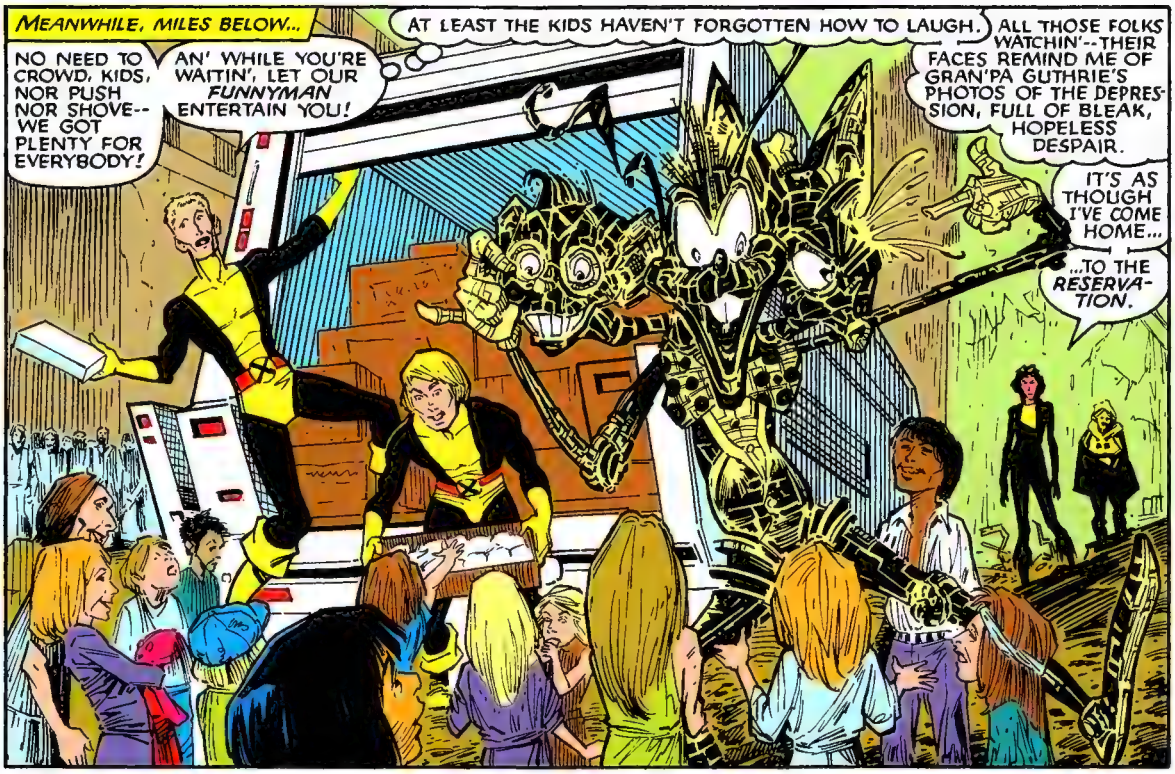
Whew!
THOUGHT WE WERE GONERS.
IN ALL THE TIME WE BEEN HERE, AH NEVER SAW ANY ARBS IN DOWNTOWN-- THEY COULDN'T CARE LESS WHAT HAPPENS HERE--

"--WONDER WHAT THEY'RE AFTER?"
STOP IT, MERISA! LET THEM GO, THIS IS FOR THE BEST!
MY BABIES! MY BABIES!
DON'T WORRY, SUB, THEY'LL HAVE THE BEST OF CARE -- UPTOWN.
YOU SHOULD BE HONORED, YOUR CHILDREN ARE MUTANTS.
IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR GIFT, YOUR FAMILY STIPEND WILL BE APPROPRIATELY INCREASED.
I DON'T WANT YOUR BLOOD MONEY!
GIVE ME BACK MY CHILDREN!
FÉDO-- WATCH YOUR BACK!
STUPID SUB-- DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, THIS IS FOR THEIR OWN GOOD!
SWAT!
Ah, WELL-- MAYBE IT'S BETTER THIS WAY. LESS GRIEF, LESS MISERY, ALL 'ROUND.
LOUSY, MURDERIN'--!
AH'LL CATCH HER!
BUT AS CANNONBALL IGNITES HIS MUTANT POWER, AND BLASTS OFF...
SAM, LOOK!
THAT RAINBOW STREAK OF LIGHT--!
ISN'T THAT THE TRADEMARK OF ONE OF THE KIDS FROM POWER PACK?!

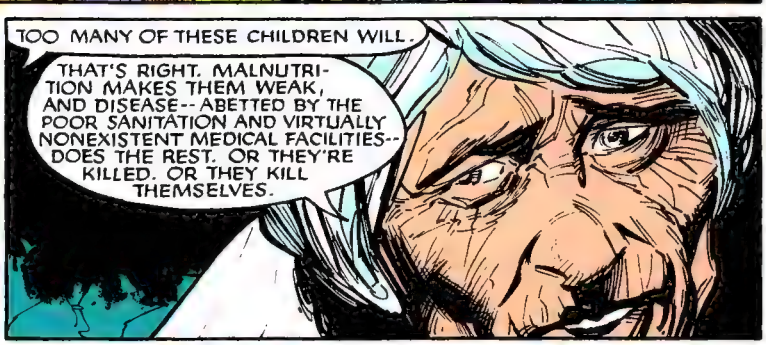
YEAH--THE OLDEST, I THINK, JULIE.
REAL CUTE--FOR A KID.
SHE CAUGHT THE MOM.
AH'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST --FIRST, BY KAY-OING THE OPPOSITION.
YOU'RE LOOKIN'A MITE CROWDED, BOYS.
ENGINES ARE REALLY STRAININ'. YOUR CAR CAN BARELY STAY AIRBORNE --AN' YOU'RE A LONG WAY FROM HOME.
MAYBE Y'ALL OUGHT'A LIGHTEN' THE LOAD--
--BY HANDIN' OVER THOSE YOUNG-STERS YOU GOT PRISONER.
YOU'RE INTERFERING WITH OFFICERS OF THE LAW--!
AIN'T MY LAW.
WOULDN'T CARE, IF IT WAS, 'CAUSE IT STINKS!
NOW RETURN THOSE CHILDREN --
--OR AH'LL TAKE 'EM!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, FELLA!
GOTTA CATCH ME FIRST.
YOUR PLACE IS UPTOWN. HOW 'BOUT Y'ALL SCOOT BACK THERE WHILE YOU'RE STILL ABLE.
LET HIM GO.
THE ORDERS ARE TO REPORT BACK TO HEAD-QUARTERS BEFORE TAKING ACTION.
YOU AIN'T WELCOME HERE.
HERE'RE YOUR KIDS, MA'AM.
THE POLICEMEN ARE GONE.
THEY'LL BE BACK! AND THEY'LL FIND US, NO MATTER WHERE WE RUN OR HIDE!
MISTER, AH JUST HELPED SAVE YOUR FAMILY.
AH'M NOT YOUR ENEMY. AIN'T NO NEED TO BE ANGRY--OR SCARED.

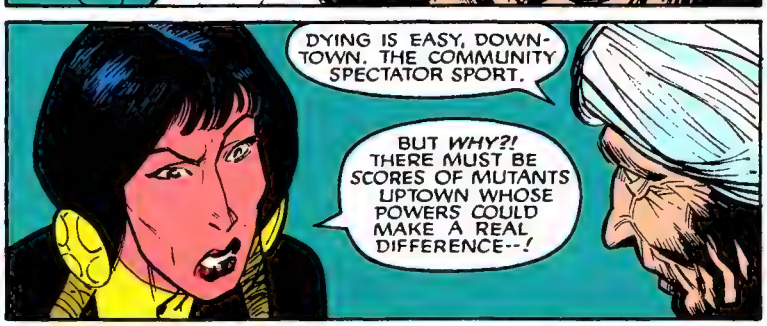
THEY CAN'T HELP IT. TO THEM, DESPITE YOUR KINDNESS, YOU'RE ONE OF THE RULING CLASS. THE OPPRESSORS.
DANI WAS RIGHT, THAT'S A POWER PACK UNIFORM.
BUT THE PERSON WEARING IT IS-- SO *OLD!*
JULIE--?!
HARDLY. I'M *KATIE POWER*, JULIE'S YOUNGER SISTER.
AND YOU'RE-- *SAM GUTHRIE*, AREN'T YOU?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN *AGES!*
INTERESTING, HOW YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.
THAT'S A REAL LONG STORY, MA'AM.
THEN I SUGGEST WE FIND OURSELVES SOMEWHERE MORE PRIVATE, SO YOU CAN TELL IT TO ME. I *LOVE* STORIES.
THIS ONE'S A DOOZY.
STINKIN' DO-GOODERS! THAT STIPEND WAS JUST WHAT WE NEEDED, MERISA AN' ME--TO FIND A DECENT PLACE, DECENT CLOTHES, DECENT FOOD-- TO FINALLY *MAKE* SOMETHING OF OUR LIVES. IT WAS *OUR* CHANCE, TOO, NOT ONLY OUR KIDS'.
BUT YOU *RUINED* IT!
UPTOWN...
...THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ARBITRATOR...
YOUR OFFICERS HAVE ENCOUNTERED THE "*RESISTANCE*," COMMANDER?
APPARENTLY, SIR.
YOU SEEM UNCERTAIN.
THE PATTERN OF INCIDENTS IS SO... HAPHAZARD, SIR. ALL THE DESCRIPTIONS--SAVE ONE--ARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE, ULTRA-POWERED MUTANTS, MIXING VANDALISM WITH PETTY THEFT.
THIS COULD BE NOTHING MORE THAN ADOLESCENTS, THUMBING THEIR NOSES AT AUTHORITY-- WHOSE FUN HAS GOTTEN A LITTLE OUT OF HAND.
ARBITRATORS HAVE BEEN ASSAULTED, COMMANDER.
REGARDLESS OF THE REASON, THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS.


I WAS THAT AGE ONCE MYSELF, COMMANDER--
--THOUGH IT FEELS LIKE ANCIENT HISTORY, A BILLION YEARS AGO--
--AND WAS TOO OFTEN TRIPPED UP BY MY HOT-HEADED NATURE.
BUT YOU LEARNED, MY FRIEND, TO CONTROL YOURSELF.
USUALLY, THE HARD WAY. AND AT A FEARFUL COST.
COMMANDER, CAN YOU *VISAGE* YOUR PERPETRATORS?
OF COURSE, SIR.
AS THE COMMANDER'S FEATURES FLOW LIKE MERCURY-- FROM ONE FACE TO THE NEXT-- THE CHIEF ARBITRATOR'S EYES NARROW, BREATH CATCHING MOMENTARILY IN HIS THROAT...
... AS HE RECOGNIZES THEM.
"THE ELDERLY WOMAN," *THE COMMANDER REPORTS,* "IS THE RENEGADE, ***KATE POWER***. WE'VE BEEN AFTER HER FOR YEARS, BUT NEVER EVEN CAME CLOSE."
"SMALL WONDER," *REPLIES HIS CHIEF,* "SHE SURVIVED THE SENTINELS. AND WAS A HERO OF OUR REVOLUTION-- UNTIL SHE TURNED AGAINST IT."
"THIS LAST FACE IS THE SUB WHOSE CHILDREN WERE THE OBJECT OF TODAY'S ***CULLING RAID***. HE'S PROVIDED US WITH A LEAD TO THE AGITATORS' WHEREABOUTS, DOWNTOWN.
A SPECIAL POWERS STRIKE FORCE HAS ALREADY BEEN ASSEMBLED...
I AND MY LADY WILL BE ACCOMPANYING YOU, COMMANDER.
SIR? DO YOU THINK THAT'S WISE? THERE'S SURE TO BE TROUBLE.
WE CAN HANDLE OURSELVES. AS WE HAVE SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.
REGARDLESS OF THE DANGER...
...THIS IS A SITUATION WE MUST DEAL WITH PERSONALLY.
AS YOU WISH, SIR.
Sigh!


MEANWHILE, MILES BELOW...
AT LEAST THE KIDS HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN HOW TO LAUGH.
ALL THOSE FOLKS WATCHIN'--THEIR FACES REMIND ME OF GRAN'PA GUTHRIE'S PHOTOS OF THE DEPRESSION, FULL OF BLEAK, HOPELESS DESPAIR.
NO NEED TO CROWD, KIDS, NOR PUSH NOR SHOVE--WE GOT PLENTY FOR EVERYBODY!
AN' WHILE YOU'RE WAITIN', LET OUR FUNNYMAN ENTERTAIN YOU!
IT'S AS THOUGH I'VE COME HOME...
...TO THE RESERVATION.

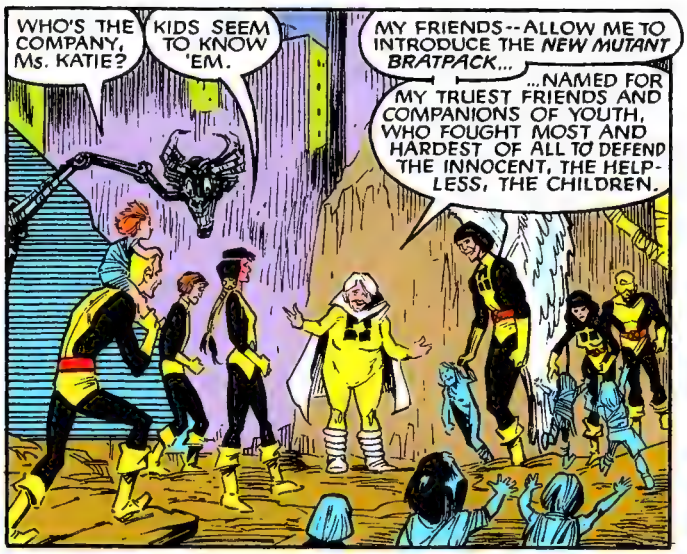
Y'KNOW, KATIE, IF WE WEREN'T HERE, THE ADULTS WOULD HAVE DRIVEN AWAY THE KIDS LONG AGO.
FOR ALL OUR EFFORTS, THIS ONLY TAKES CARE OF TODAY. WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW?!
YOU TALK AS THOUGH YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.
I POSSESS THE DEATH-SIGHT--
--THE VALKYRIE "GIFT" OF SENSING THOSE WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE.

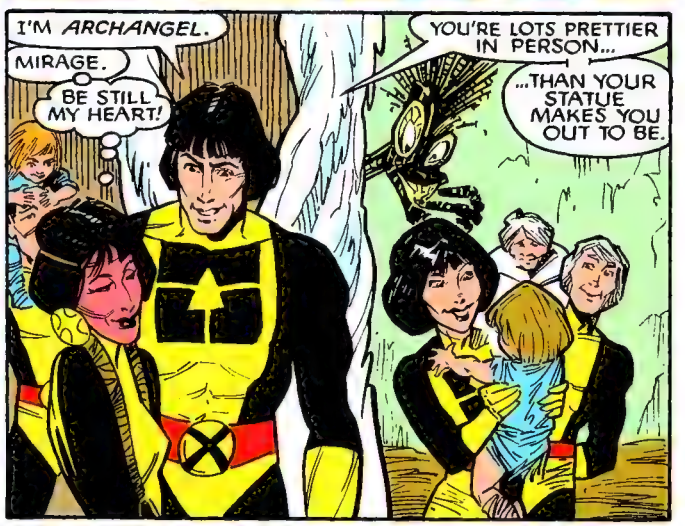

TOO MANY OF THESE CHILDREN WILL.
THAT'S RIGHT. MALNUTRITION MAKES THEM WEAK, AND DISEASE--ABETTED BY THE POOR SANITATION AND VIRTUALLY NONEXISTENT MEDICAL FACILITIES--DOES THE REST. OR THEY'RE KILLED. OR THEY KILL THEMSELVES.


DYING IS EASY, DOWNTOWN. THE COMMUNITY SPECTATOR SPORT.
BUT WHY?! THERE MUST BE SCORES OF MUTANTS UPTOWN WHOSE POWERS COULD MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE--!

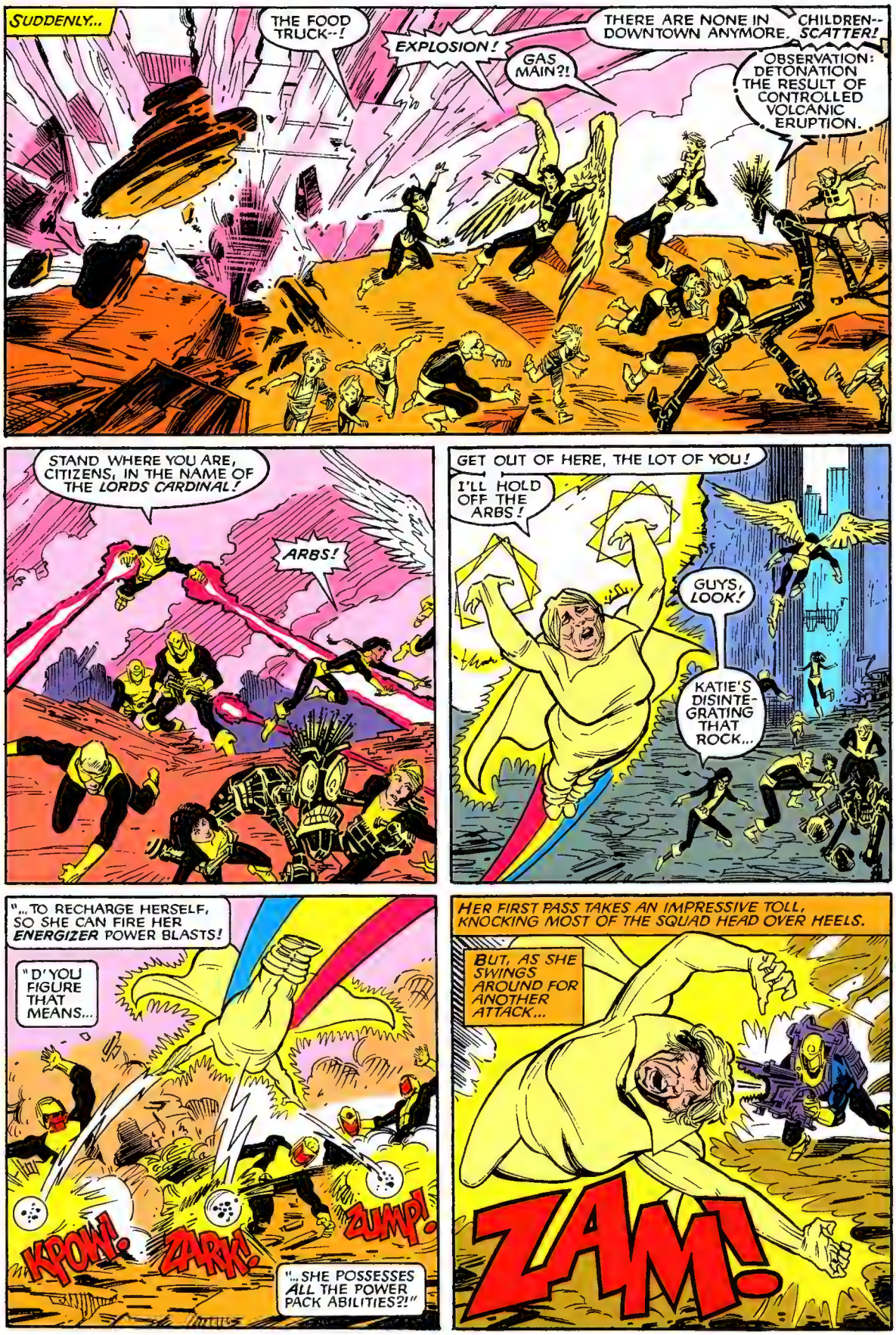
EASILY.
BUT MOST OF THEM SIMPLY...
...DON'T CARE.

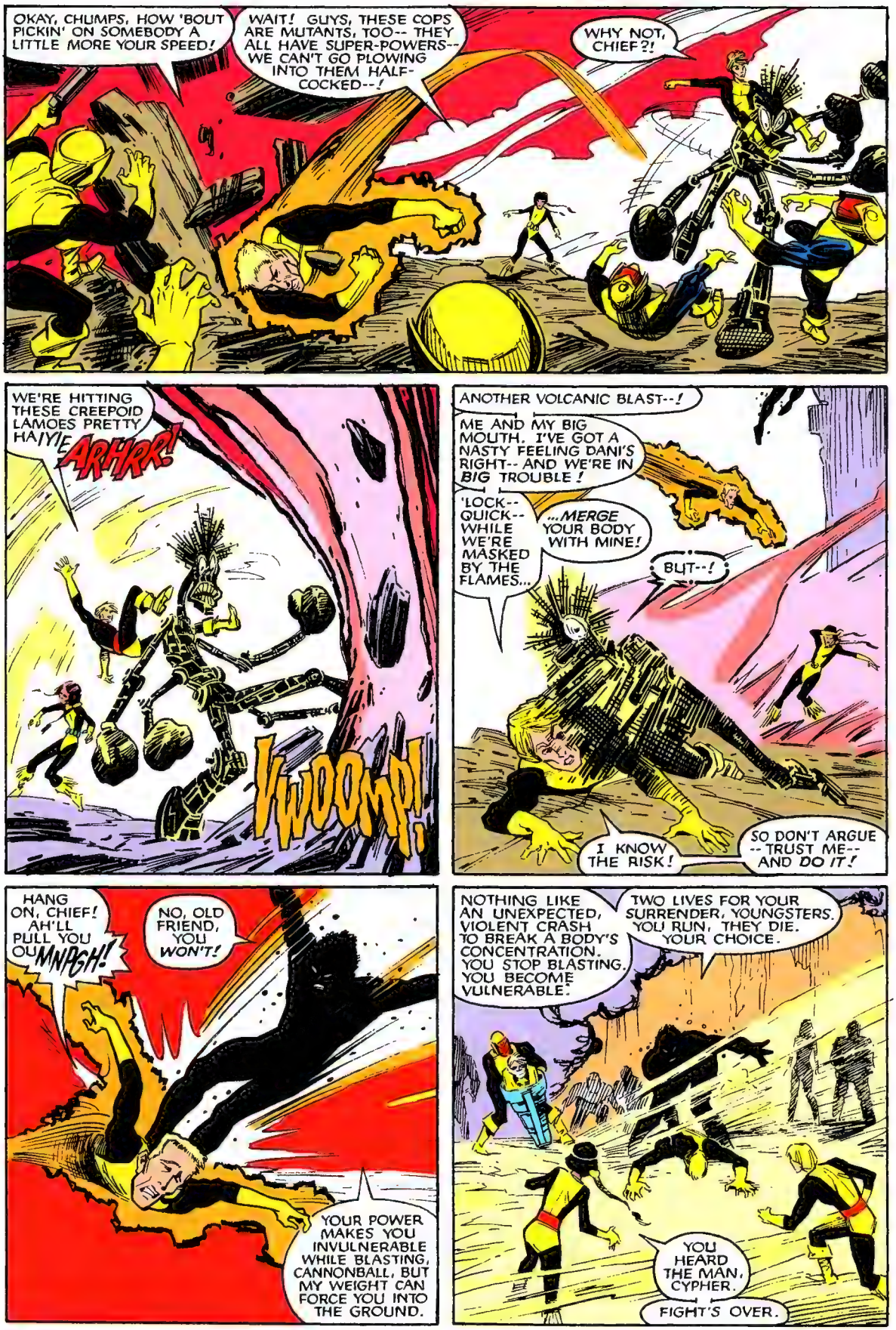
WHY SHOULD THEY?
MOST OF OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES DON'T CONSIDER THE PEOPLE HERE "PEOPLE". LESS EVEN THAN ANIMALS.
BY OUR SOCIETY'S STANDARDS, *WE*-- ENHANCED POWER BEINGS --ARE THE TRUE *HUMANS*.
AND THE *SUBS*-- HERE IN DOWNTOWN--
--MERELY OUR BRUTISH, *SUB-HUMAN* FORBEARS.


WHO'S THE COMPANY, Ms. KATIE?
KIDS SEEM TO KNOW 'EM.
MY FRIENDS--ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE THE *NEW MUTANT BRATPACK*...
...NAMED FOR MY TRUEST FRIENDS AND COMPANIONS OF YOUTH, WHO FOUGHT MOST AND HARDEST OF ALL TO DEFEND THE INNOCENT, THE HELPLESS, THE CHILDREN.

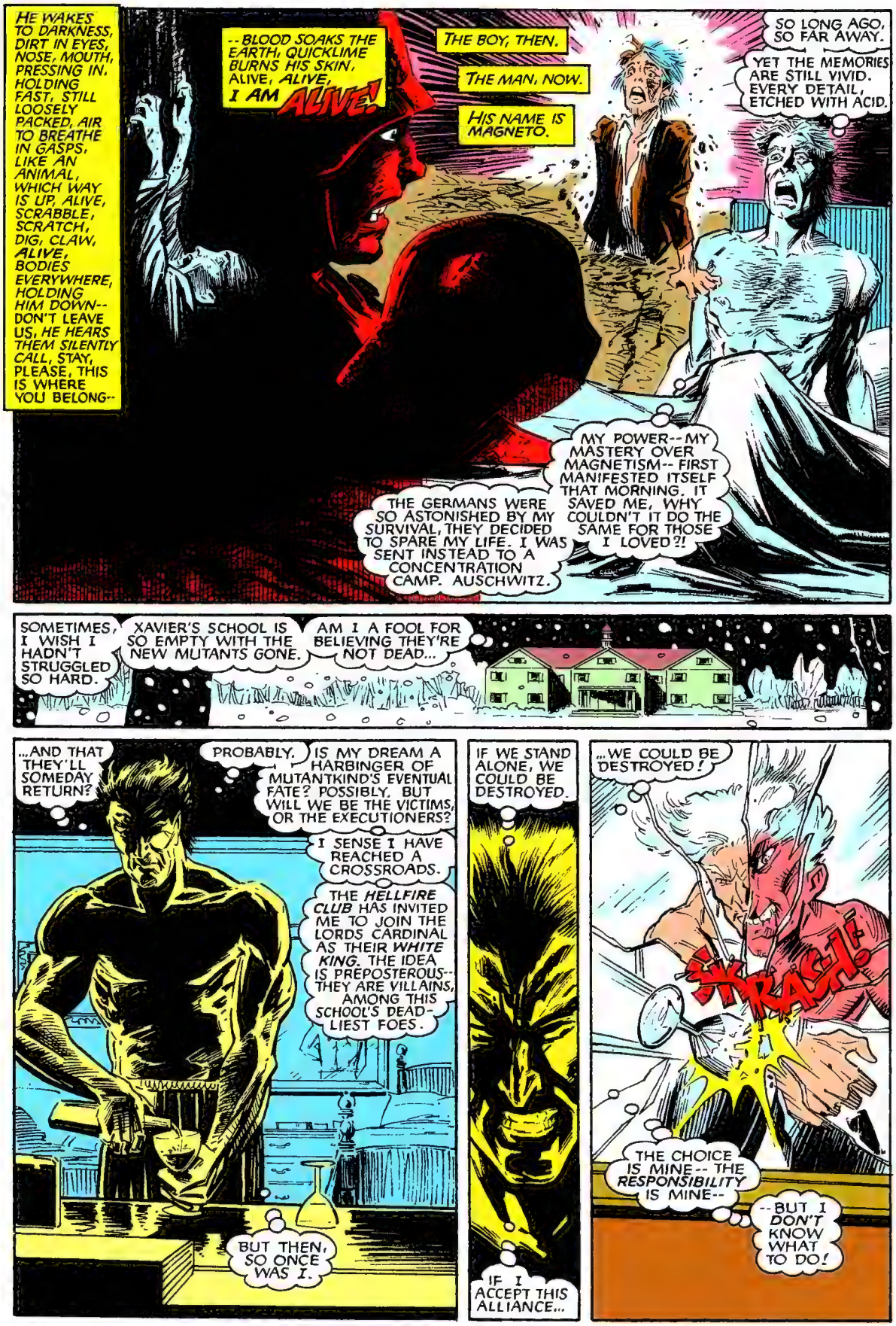

I'M *ARCHANGEL*.
MIRAGE.
BE STILL MY HEART!
YOU'RE LOTS PRETTIER IN PERSON...
...THAN YOUR STATUE MAKES YOU OUT TO BE.

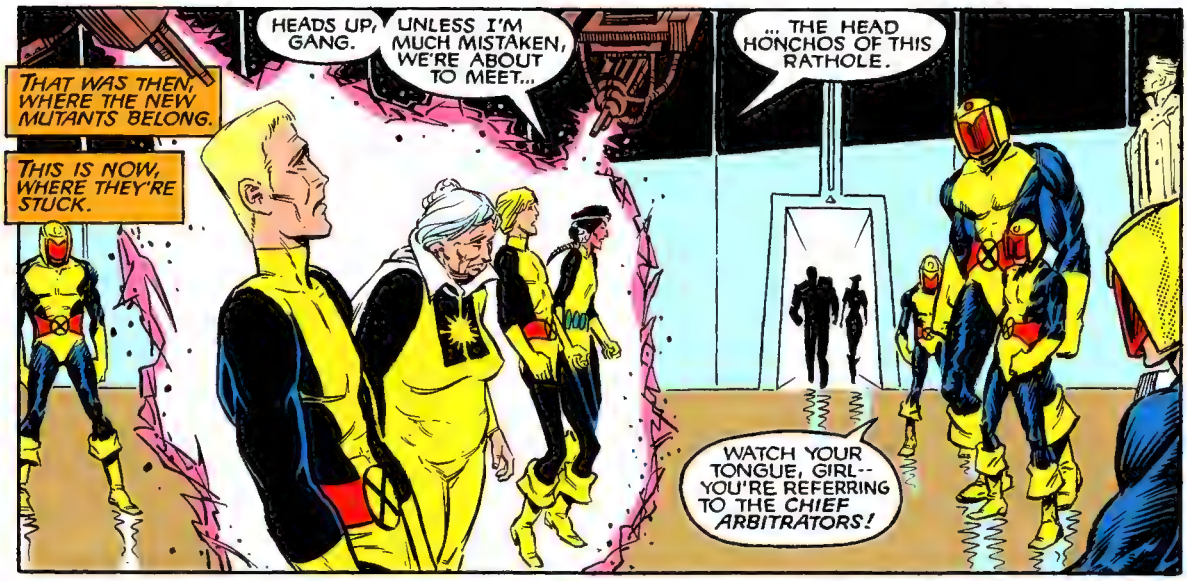
YOU CHILDREN HAVE NO CONCEPTION OF THE GREAT WAR'S DEVASTATION. NO ONE EMERGED UNSCATHED, AND TOO MANY, WITH THEIR HEARTS BRIMFUL OF MISTRUST AND HATE.
OUT OF THAT NIGHTMARE CAME *DOWNTOWN*. NON-SUPER BEINGS WERE STILL NEEDED-- FOR THE MOST MENIAL AND DEGRADING OF TASKS --BUT THEY WERE COMPLETELY EXCLUDED FROM ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF LIFE UPTOWN.
AS UPTOWN GREW HIGHER, THE GULF BETWEEN SOCIETIES BECAME AN ABYSS.
THESE YOUNG RUFFIANS ARE MY ATTEMPT TO BRIDGE THAT GAP. I'M THE "PIED PIPER"-- THE BAD INFLUENCE LURING THEM FROM THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, PROMPTING THEM TO QUESTION THE ESTABLISHED ORDER, TO ASK WHY *ALL* SENTIENT CREATURES CAN'T BE TREATED WITH THE SAME FUNDAMENTAL DECENCY AND HUMANITY.
I LIKE THEM YOUNG, WHEN THEY'RE FEELING MOST REBELLIOUS AND THEIR MINDS ARE MOST OPEN AND RECEPTIVE TO NEW IDEAS. AND THROUGH MY BRATPACK, I HOPE TO FULFILL YOUR PROFESSOR XAVIER'S DREAM OF *ONE HUMAN RACE*--
--WITH POWERS AND WITHOUT-- LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE AND HARMONY.

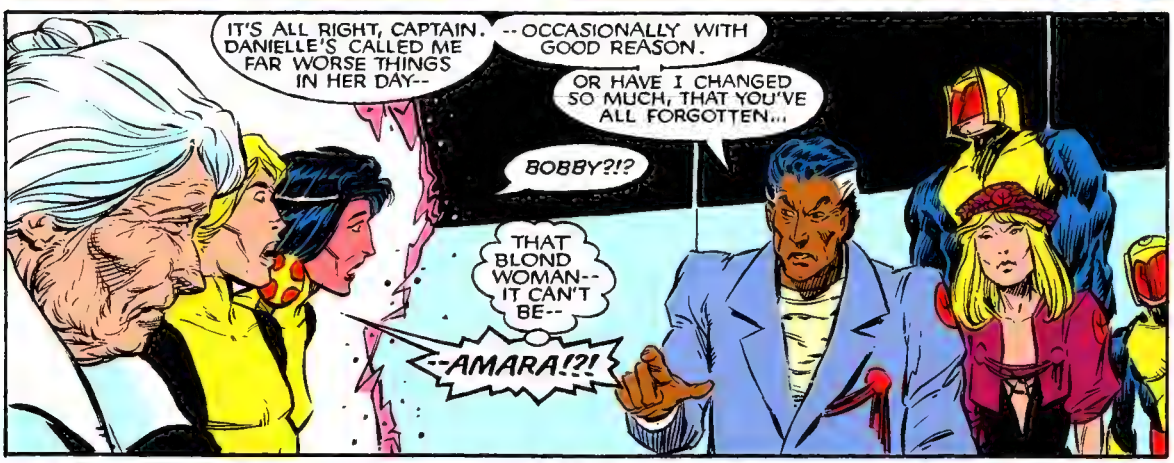

SUDDENLY...
THE FOOD TRUCK--!
EXPLOSION!
GAS MAIN?!
THERE ARE NONE IN DOWNTOWN ANYMORE. CHILDREN--SCATTER!
OBSERVATION: DETONATION THE RESULT OF CONTROLLED VOLCANIC ERUPTION.
STAND WHERE YOU ARE, CITIZENS, IN THE NAME OF THE LORDS CARDINAL!
ARBS!
GET OUT OF HERE, THE LOT OF YOU!
I'LL HOLD OFF THE ARBS!
GUYS, LOOK!
KATIE'S DISINTE-GRATING THAT ROCK...
"...TO RECHARGE HERSELF, SO SHE CAN FIRE HER ENERGIZER POWER BLASTS!
"D'YOU FIGURE THAT MEANS...
KPOW!
ZARK!
ZUMP!
"...SHE POSSESSES ALL THE POWER PACK ABILITIES?!"
HER FIRST PASS TAKES AN IMPRESSIVE TOLL, KNOCKING MOST OF THE SQUAD HEAD OVER HEELS.
BUT, AS SHE SWINGS AROUND FOR ANOTHER ATTACK...
ZAM!


OKAY, CHUMPS, HOW 'BOUT PICKIN' ON SOMEBODY A LITTLE MORE YOUR SPEED!
WAIT! GUYS, THESE COPS ARE MUTANTS, TOO-- THEY ALL HAVE SUPER-POWERS-- WE CAN'T GO PLOWING INTO THEM HALF-COCKED--!
WHY NOT, CHIEF?!
WE'RE HITTING THESE CREEPOID LAMOES PRETTY HAIYIE
ARHRR!
KWOOMP!
ANOTHER VOLCANIC BLAST--!
ME AND MY BIG MOUTH. I'VE GOT A NASTY FEELING DANI'S RIGHT-- AND WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!
'LOCK-- QUICK-- WHILE WE'RE MASKED BY THE FLAMES...
...MERGE YOUR BODY WITH MINE!
BUT--!
I KNOW THE RISK!
SO DON'T ARGUE -- TRUST ME-- AND DO IT!
HANG ON, CHIEF! AH'LL PULL YOU OUMNPGH!
NO, OLD FRIEND, YOU WON'T!
YOUR POWER MAKES YOU INVULNERABLE WHILE BLASTING, CANNONBALL, BUT MY WEIGHT CAN FORCE YOU INTO THE GROUND.
NOTHING LIKE AN UNEXPECTED, VIOLENT CRASH TO BREAK A BODY'S CONCENTRATION. YOU STOP BLASTING. YOU BECOME VULNERABLE.
TWO LIVES FOR YOUR SURRENDER, YOUNGSTERS. YOU RUN, THEY DIE. YOUR CHOICE.
YOU HEARD THE MAN, CYPHER.
FIGHT'S OVER.

It is spring.
The fields are full of wildflowers-- he's never seen so many colors--and the air is heady with their scent. A hawk circles lazily overhead, and he can hear a lark singing close by. He wants to lie in that field and listen to the buzzy bees go about their business and watch the clouds flow majestically by. Their beauty inspiring his imagination to cast him higher than any bird, to the further reaches of space and time.
He laughs--in wonderment and true joy--a strange and alien sound amidst the stifled sobs and prayers around him--
--and papa's hands tighten gently on his shoulders.
"Be brave," papa says, "show them you are not afraid."
But, suddenly, he is.
And the guns chatter--silencing the lark, sending the hawk into startled flight, rough cordite souring the flowers' fragrance.
Bullets fly.
He hears screams.
Death rushes towards him. His mind burns, power he never dreamed existed coming alive, reaching out-- bullets, for him, seeming to move in slow motion--
The simplest of matters to use this strange, new ability to move them aside, make them miss--
--papa grunts, mama cries his name, sister makes no noise at all--
--he is falling with them...
... into blessed, eternal oblivion
Shot, like them.
Killed, like them.


HE WAKES TO DARKNESS, DIRT IN EYES, NOSE, MOUTH, PRESSING IN. HOLDING FAST, STILL LOOSELY PACKED, AIR TO BREATHE IN GASPS, LIKE AN ANIMAL, WHICH WAY IS UP, ALIVE, SCRABBLE, SCRATCH, DIG, CLAW, ALIVE, BODIES EVERYWHERE, HOLDING HIM DOWN-- DON'T LEAVE US, HE HEARS THEM SILENTLY CALL, STAY, PLEASE, THIS IS WHERE YOU BELONG--
--BLOOD SOAKS THE EARTH, QUICKLIME BURNS HIS SKIN, ALIVE, ALIVE, I AM ALIVE!
THE BOY, THEN.
THE MAN, NOW.
HIS NAME IS MAGNETO.
SO LONG AGO, SO FAR AWAY.
YET THE MEMORIES ARE STILL VIVID. EVERY DETAIL, ETCHED WITH ACID.
MY POWER--MY MASTERY OVER MAGNETISM-- FIRST MANIFESTED ITSELF THAT MORNING. IT SAVED ME, WHY COULDN'T IT DO THE SAME FOR THOSE I LOVED?!
THE GERMANS WERE SO ASTONISHED BY MY SURVIVAL, THEY DECIDED TO SPARE MY LIFE. I WAS SENT INSTEAD TO A CONCENTRATION CAMP. AUSCHWITZ.
SOMETIMES, I WISH I HADN'T STRUGGLED SO HARD.
XAVIER'S SCHOOL IS SO EMPTY WITH THE NEW MUTANTS GONE.
AM I A FOOL FOR BELIEVING THEY'RE NOT DEAD...
...AND THAT THEY'LL SOMEDAY RETURN?
PROBABLY.
IS MY DREAM A HARBINGER OF MUTANTKIND'S EVENTUAL FATE? POSSIBLY. BUT WILL WE BE THE VICTIMS, OR THE EXECUTIONERS?
I SENSE I HAVE REACHED A CROSSROADS.
THE HELLFIRE CLUB HAS INVITED ME TO JOIN THE LORDS CARDINAL AS THEIR WHITE KING. THE IDEA IS PREPOSTEROUS-- THEY ARE VILLAINS, AMONG THIS SCHOOL'S DEADLIEST FOES.
BUT THEN, SO ONCE WAS I.
IF WE STAND ALONE, WE COULD BE DESTROYED.
IF I ACCEPT THIS ALLIANCE...
...WE COULD BE DESTROYED!
KRAK!
THE CHOICE IS MINE-- THE RESPONSIBILITY IS MINE--
--BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!


THAT WAS THEN, WHERE THE NEW MUTANTS BELONG.
THIS IS NOW, WHERE THEY'RE STUCK.
HEADS UP, GANG.
UNLESS I'M MUCH MISTAKEN, WE'RE ABOUT TO MEET...
... THE HEAD HONCHOS OF THIS RATHOLE.
WATCH YOUR TONGUE, GIRL-- YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE CHIEF ARBITRATORS!


IT'S ALL RIGHT, CAPTAIN. DANIELLE'S CALLED ME FAR WORSE THINGS IN HER DAY--
--OCCASIONALLY WITH GOOD REASON.
OR HAVE I CHANGED SO MUCH, THAT YOU'VE ALL FORGOTTEN...
BOBBY?!?
THAT BLOND WOMAN-- IT CAN'T BE--
--AMARA!?!

NO! NO!
IF YOU'RE IN CHARGE HERE, YOU HAVE CHANGED-- BECAUSE THE SUNSPOT AND MAGMA WE KNEW WOULD NEVER BE A PART OF SUCH A CRUEL AND REPRESSIVE SOCIETY!
EASY TO CONDEMN, DANI...
...WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

THERE WAS A WAR, MY FRIENDS-- THE BLOODIEST AND MOST TERRIBLE IN HUMAN HISTORY.
IF MAGNETO HADN'T FORGED AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN XAVIER'S SCHOOL AND THE HELLFIRE CLUB ..
...MUTANTKIND WOULD HAVE BEEN EXTERMINATED!

OUR TEACH...
...TEAM UP WITH *THEM*?! NO WAY!
SAY WHAT YOU PLEASE, SAM, THIS IS *HISTORY* TO US.
AFTER OUR VICTORY, MANY WANTED THE SURVIVING HUMANS TO SUFFER THE FATE THEY'D PLANNED FOR US. BUT WE *LORDS CARDINAL* DECIDED INSTEAD TO BE MERCIFUL.
WE PROVIDED THEM A PLACE TO LIVE-- NOT HERE, OF COURSE, BUT THAT'S BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO ASSOCIATE WITH US ANY MORE THAN WE DO WITH THEM. THEY'RE MUCH BETTER OFF AMONG THEIR OWN KIND.
WE BUILT THIS CITY FOR OURSELVES, WHY SHOULD WE SHARE THE FRUITS OF OUR POWERS AND OUR LABOR?
IF YOU HAVE TO ASK, THERE'S NO POINT ME TELLIN' YOU.

THEY HAVE DOWNTOWN-- IF THEY LIVE IN SQUALOR, IT'S BY THEIR CHOICE. THEY COULD PROSPER IF THEY WANTED.
BUT THEY'D RATHER DESPOIL THEIR HOMES --AND THEN BLAME US FOR THEIR MISERY.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR GOONS TRYING TO KIDNAP LITTLE KIDS?!

SAM, THAT WAS A "*CULLING SEARCH.*" GENETIC SCANS DETERMINE THOSE AMONG THE SUBS' PROGENY WITH STRONG MUTANT POTENTIAL. THEY ARE FOSTERED TO HOMES UPTOWN...
...WHERE THEIR POTENTIAL CAN BE REALIZED TO ITS FULLEST EXTENT. THIS IS OUR WAY OF MAINTAINING THE SPIRIT AND REALITY OF XAVIER'S SCHOOL.
BULL! NOBODY WAS EVER KIDNAPED INTO XAVIER'S!

AS I RECALL, Mr. "NOBODY," CANNONBALL SNATCHED *YOU* OUT OF YOUR HOUSE-- IN YOUR PAJAMAS--THE NIGHT *WARLOCK* ARRIVED. YOU WEREN'T GIVEN MUCH OF A CHOICE, WE DRAGGED YOU RIGHT INTO THE TEAM.
SPEAKING OF WARLOCK, CYPHER, WHERE IS HE?

BEATS ME. PROBABLY SCARED STIFF AND HIDING FROM HIS DAD, *MAGUS*.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE IN THIS MESS. MAGUS WANTS 'LOCK DEAD, AND HE'S WILLING TO GO TO ANY LENGTH TO GET HIM. REMEMBER, BOBBY?
OR DIDN'T THIS HAPPEN IN YOUR PAST?

BULLPEN BULLETINS

About ten years ago, a lawyer friend of mine told me that I could sue DC Comics for a million dollars or more. The lawyer, a lady who'd worked in the comics business for many years, had discovered that I'd started writing professionally for DC Comics in 1965 when I was *thirteen years old*, and had written many dozens of stories for DC's top-selling titles while I was between the ages of thirteen and eighteen. Because I was a *minor*, she said, the legal agreements that I'd signed granting DC ownership of the stories I'd written and the characters I'd created (two of which were featured in their own series) were meaningless. She told me that I *owned* those stories, and would be entitled to all the income DC had received from licensing them for publication worldwide, or statutory copyright damages, whichever was greater. She said the case was airtight, and urged me to pursue it.

I never even considered it for a moment.

You see, I'd been offered the same deal as everybody else in comics in those days, and, minor or not, I'd understood it perfectly. Moreover, I'd agreed to it *enthusiastically*—thrilled to have the chance to write comics, and very glad to be paid what I was paid, because my family *needed* that money.

It wouldn't be right to go back on the deal.

Recently, a reporter from Phoenix asked me, "Do you think your comics provide good role models for your younger readers?" That's a pretty standard question, and I gave it the standard answer—that providing good role models is not our goal. We don't try to preach morals or values—business, we feel, best left to parents and educators. We're *entertainers*. Our business is telling good stories.

He seemed happy with that answer, and the interview moved on. Since then, however, I've given that subject more thought. The fact is that a *good* story must leave the reader with something more than he started with—a thought, an idea, an insight . . . What thoughts, ideas and insights were conveyed to *me* when I was a reader?

The Amazing Spider-Man was my favorite title back then. I identified with Peter Parker, because he and his Aunt May had money troubles just like my family did. Often his need was desperate, and he was faced with a choice between doing the self-serving, expedient thing and doing the *right* thing. He wasn't a paragon. Once or twice he slipped. Hey, he was only human. But, you know, I could tell that he learned from his mistakes, and in the end, when it counted, he always chose to do the *right* thing.

My lawyer friend's name came up in conversation the other day, reminding me of my choice not to sue DC. It occurred to me then that Peter Parker wouldn't have done it either.

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

CHECKLIST

☐ **DAKOTA NORTH #5**
☐ **DAREDEVIL #239**
☐ **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #3**
☐ **NEW MUTANTS #48**—Vs. the Sentinels of the future!
☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #3**—Their first mission against the Horde!
☐ **TRANSFORMERS: THE MOVIE (Limited Series) #3**
☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #23**
☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #17**
☐ **COMET MAN (Limited Series) #1**—Dr. Stephen Beckley discovers the secret of Halley's Comet—and it destroys him! This incredible space adventure could have been created only by someone who's been there! Created and written by BILL ("Lost in Space") MUMY and MIGUEL FERRAR! Art by KELLY JONES and GERRY TALAOC!
☐ **CONAN ANNUAL #10**
☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #43**
☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #285**—With the Punisher and Hobgoblin!
☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #326**
☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #81**—Introducing Rintah!
☐ **G.I. JOE AND TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series) #2**—Cobra and the Decepticons become allies!
☐ **POWER PACK #28**—A visit to Avengers Mansion!
☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR VS. THE X-MEN (Limited Series) #1**—Has Reed Richards betrayed the FF? What's he doing with the X-Men? And now will he betray them, too? Find out in this 4-issue Limited Series by CHRIS CLAREMONT (writer) with JON BOGDANOVE and TERRY AUSTIN (artists)!
☐ **AVENGERS #276**—The Masters of Evil!
☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #191**
☐ **G.I. JOE #56**
☐ **HOWARD THE DUCK (Limited Series) #3**
☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #328**
☐ **MARVEL TALES #196**—Reprinting *Marvel Team-Up #62* by CHRIS CLAREMONT and JOHN BYRNE.
☐ **THE 'NAM #3**—Off to Saigon on a "Three Day Pass!" Story by Vietnam vet DOUG MURRAY. Art by MICHAEL GOLDEN and ARMANDO GIL.
☐ **X-MEN #214**—The aftermath of the Mutant Massacre by CHRIS CLAREMONT and BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH!
☐ **MARVEL SAGA #15**—The origins of Hawkeye and Wonder Man! The Avengers vs. Kang! Spidey meets Daredevil! And more!
☐ **TRANFORMERS UNIVERSE (Limited Series) #3**
☐ **SPIDER-MAN VS. WOLVERINE #1**—In East Berlin, Spidey finds out that spies play for keeps! But there's someone even more deadly—Wolverine! Written by JIM OWSLEY! Art by MARK BRIGHT and AL WILLIAMSON!
☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #299**
☐ **IRON MAN #215**—DAVID MICHELINIE and BOB LAYTON are back! And they got MARK BRIGHT with them!
☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #123**—With the Black Cat!
☐ **THOR #376**—A bone-breaking battle with the Absorbing Man!
☐ **TRANSFORMERS #25**
☐ **X-FACTOR #13**—Cyclops battles a Sentinel!
☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN #6**—Reprinting *X-Men #98*, with new material by CHRIS CLAREMONT and JOHN BOLTON.
☐ **G.I. JOE ORDER OF BATTLE (Limited Series) #4**—Also known as "G.I. Joe Universe!"
☐ **G.I. JOE DIGEST #2**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

☐ **MARVEL AGE #47**—The only place to go for info about everything you see here! Plus, behind the scenes at the New Universe!
☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #132**

EPIC COMICS

☐ **MOONSHADOW (Limited Series) #11**—The true tale of Ira's origin!
☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #24**
☐ **ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN (Limited Series) #5**—Elektra and Garrett take on SHIELD and Washington, D.C. By FRANK MILLER and BILL SIENKIEWICZ.
☐ **ALIEN LEGION #17**—Under suspicion of murder!
☐ **ELFQUEST #19**
☐ **STEELGRIP STARKEY (Limited Series) #3**—The latest and the greatest!

STAR COMICS

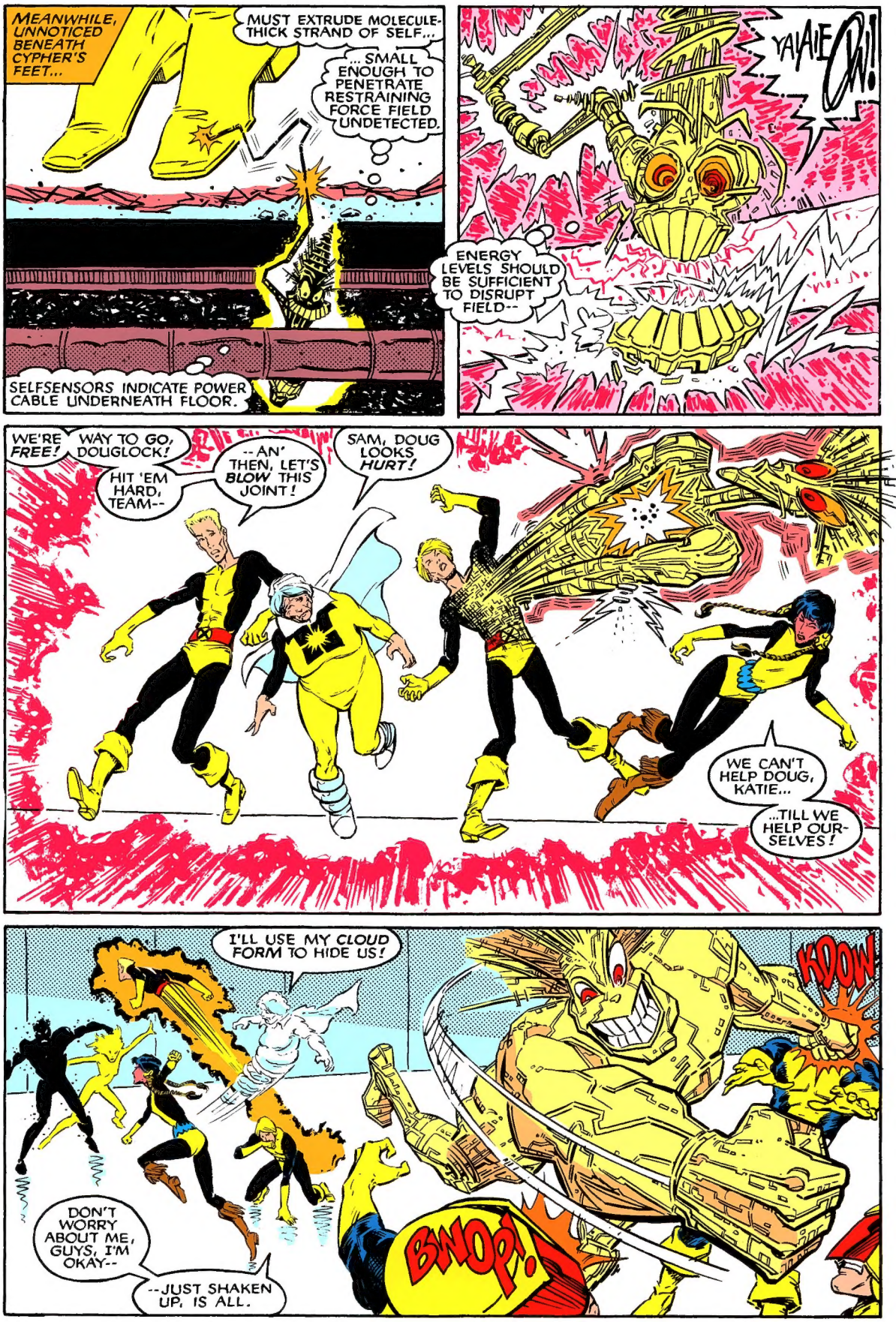
☐ **HUGGA BUNCH #3**—The Huglets disappear!
☐ **THUNDERCATS #8**
☐ **ANIMAX #2**—X-Tinctor and the Motor Mutants lay siege to the city of Animax!
☐ **HEATHCLIFF #14!**
☐ **DROIDS #6**—Guest-starring the entire "Star Wars" crew!
☐ **POPPLES #2**
☐ **TOP DOG #12**—Speechless!
☐ **STAR DIGEST #2**—With Heathcliff, Top Dog, Care Bears and more!

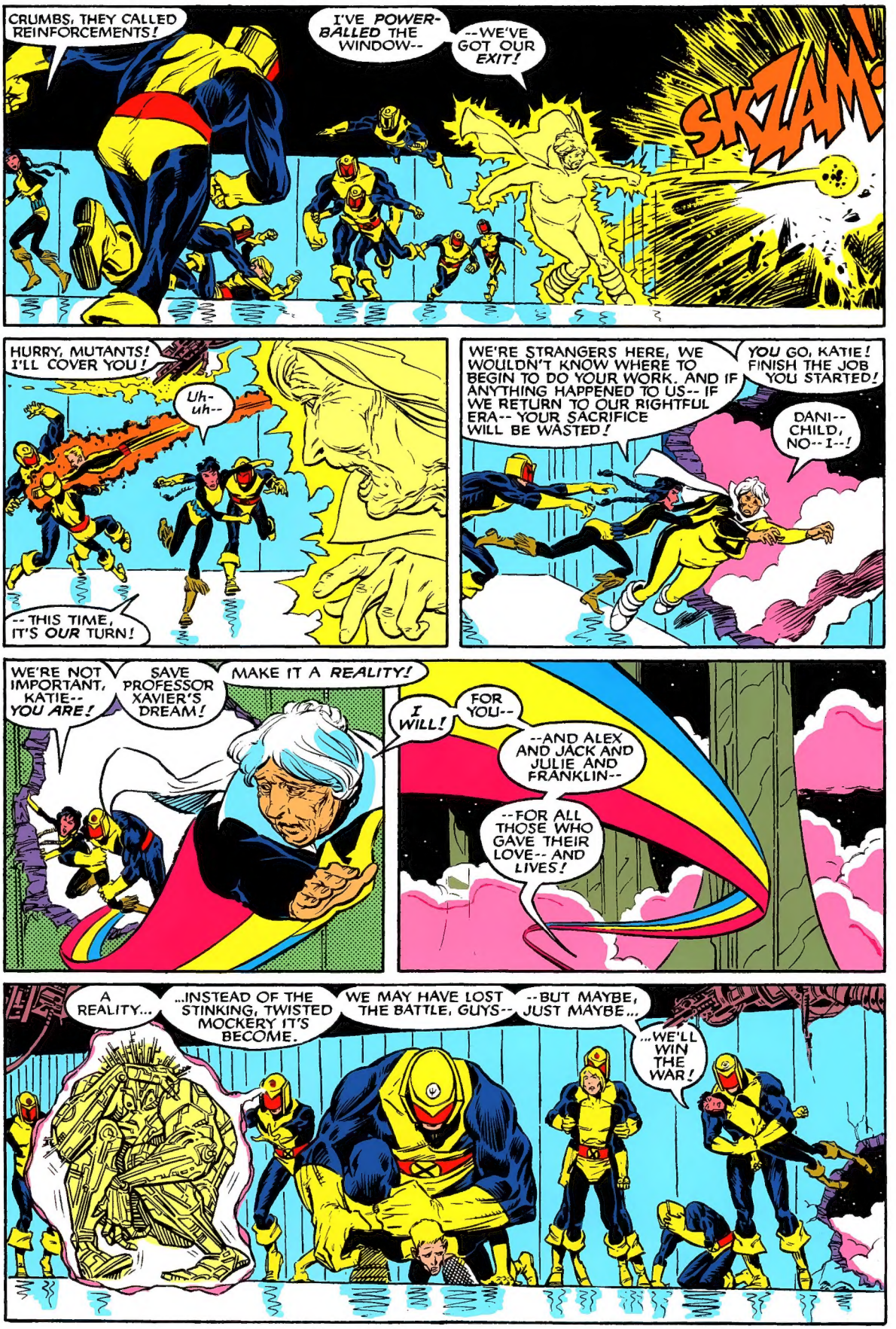
NEW UNIVERSE

☐ **NIGHT MASK #4**—She's alluring and deadly! She's Mistress Twilight! Night Mask must resist her . . . but can he?
☐ **PSI FORCE #4**—Kathy goes home . . . with incredible consequences!
☐ **KICKERS, INC. #4**—They fight dirty 'cause they're the *Fist*, and they're after Jack's head!
☐ **MERC #4**—Hazzard faces criminal charges as a result of the Philadelphia Debacle!
☐ **D.P. 7 #4**—The Displaced Paranormals find their lives in jeopardy when they cross paths with the "Wompus!"
☐ **JUSTICE #4**—Out on Exit 14, life gets tougher for Justice on our world . . . as we learn more about Justice's home world!
☐ **STAR BRAND #5**—A Mediterranean dictator has threatened drastic consequences for anyone who crosses his Line of Death! Enter Star Brand . . . !
☐ **SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS #5**—Star Brand must fight Spitfire, and the life of a Troubleshooter hangs in the balance!

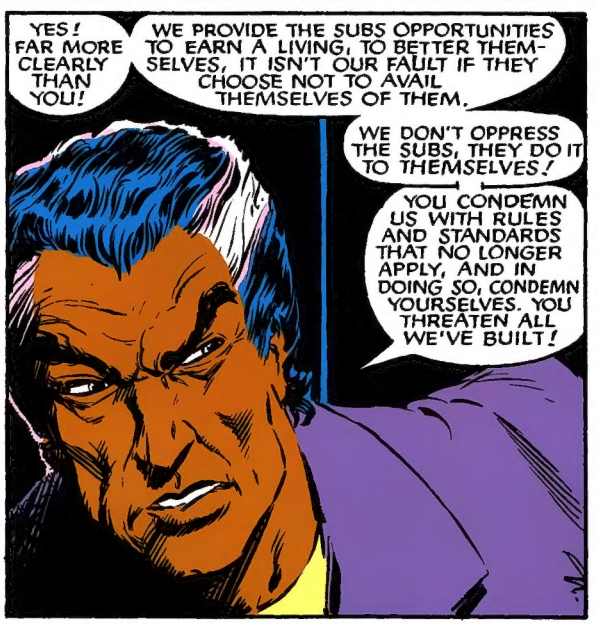
GRAPHIC NOVEL

☐ **ALIEN LEGION: A GREY DAY TO DIE**—It's a story so dangerous that it had to be told in a Graphic Novel! The Legionnaires face their deadliest task! The world's on the brink of annihilation! And Death is on the prowl! Written by CARL POTTS and ALAN ZELENETZ. Art by FRANK CIROCCO and TERRY AUSTIN.


MEANWHILE, UNNOTICED BENEATH CYPHER'S FEET...
MUST EXTRUDE MOLECULE-THICK STRAND OF SELF...
...SMALL ENOUGH TO PENETRATE RESTRAINING FORCE FIELD UNDETECTED.
SELFSENSORS INDICATE POWER CABLE UNDERNEATH FLOOR.
YAIAIE
OW!
ENERGY LEVELS SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO DISRUPT FIELD--
WE'RE FREE!
WAY TO GO, DOUGLOCK!
HIT 'EM HARD, TEAM--
--AN' THEN, LET'S BLOW THIS JOINT!
SAM, DOUG LOOKS HURT!
WE CAN'T HELP DOUG, KATIE...
...TILL WE HELP OUR-SELVES!
I'LL USE MY CLOUD FORM TO HIDE US!
KDOW
BNOP!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, GUYS, I'M OKAY--
--JUST SHAKEN UP, IS ALL.


CRUMBS, THEY CALLED REINFORCEMENTS!
I'VE POWER-BALLED THE WINDOW--
--WE'VE GOT OUR EXIT!
SKZAM!
HURRY, MUTANTS! I'LL COVER YOU!
Uh-uh--
--THIS TIME, IT'S OUR TURN!
WE'RE STRANGERS HERE, WE WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN TO DO YOUR WORK. AND IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO US-- IF WE RETURN TO OUR RIGHTFUL ERA-- YOUR SACRIFICE WILL BE WASTED!
YOU GO, KATIE! FINISH THE JOB YOU STARTED!
DANI-- CHILD, NO--I--!
WE'RE NOT IMPORTANT, KATIE-- YOU ARE!
SAVE PROFESSOR XAVIER'S DREAM!
MAKE IT A REALITY!
I WILL!
FOR YOU--
--AND ALEX AND JACK AND JULIE AND FRANKLIN--
--FOR ALL THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LOVE-- AND LIVES!
A REALITY...
...INSTEAD OF THE STINKING, TWISTED MOCKERY IT'S BECOME.
WE MAY HAVE LOST THE BATTLE, GUYS--
--BUT MAYBE, JUST MAYBE...
...WE'LL WIN THE WAR!

SO SURE, SO SMUG, SO ARROGANT--
--SO STUPID!
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!
YOU BET!
YOU'RE MY FRIENDS-- BUT I HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT TRANSCEND EVEN THAT!
YOU MAY NOT APPROVE OF OUR SOCIETY-- BUT IT'S OUR SOCIETY! BY WHAT RIGHT DO YOU DARE JUDGE US?!
WE'RE LIVING, THINKING--MORAL-- BEINGS. LIKE YOU. LIKE THE PEOPLE DOWNTOWN! THAT GIVES US NOT ONLY THE RIGHT, BUT THE OBLIGATION!
BOBBY, CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING--?!


YES! FAR MORE CLEARLY THAN YOU!
WE PROVIDE THE SUBS OPPORTUNITIES TO EARN A LIVING, TO BETTER THEMSELVES, IT ISN'T OUR FAULT IF THEY CHOOSE NOT TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THEM.
WE DON'T OPPRESS THE SUBS, THEY DO IT TO THEMSELVES!
YOU CONDEMN US WITH RULES AND STANDARDS THAT NO LONGER APPLY, AND IN DOING SO, CONDEMN YOURSELVES. YOU THREATEN ALL WE'VE BUILT!

I'LL DO A LOT MORE THAN THAT, CHUM, WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON YOUR YOUNGER SELF!
IN OUR ERA, THIS IS THE FUTURE-- IT HASN'T HAPPENED YET -- IT CAN STILL BE CHANGED! AND I'LL MAKE SURE IT IS!
ALL THE MORE REASON FOR ME TO ACT.
WE HAVE MUTANT-PSIS, WHO HAVE TELEPATHIC POWERS...

... WHO WILL MODIFY YOUR THOUGHTS AND BELIEFS, TO BRING YOU INTO TOTAL HARMONY WITH OUR COMMUNITY.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE PEACEFUL, PRODUCTIVE-- HAPPY-- LIVES AMONG US. AND IF YOU ARE RETURNED TO WHERE YOU BELONG, YOU'LL BELIEVE OURS IS THE WAY HUMAN SOCIETY SHOULD BE.

NEXT: MAGUS VS. WARLOCK --TO THE DEATH!

MINUTEMEN
Quick
STOP
RST